

PLANTING IDEAS • BEAUTIFUL GARDENS • EXPERT ADVICE

# GARDENS

ILLUSTRATED

**Gardens to inspire**  
IN KENYA, USA, SPAIN AND MOROCCO

INTERNATIONAL DESIGN  
PROJECTS BY

**Jinny Blom**  
**Tom Stuart-Smith**

**Martha  
Stewart's**  
private garden in  
New York State

DESIGN AND  
PLANTING TRENDS  
*FOR 2018*

**Cacti and  
succulents**

PLANTING IN AN  
ARID CLIMATE







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# EDITOR'S LETTER



**T**his issue of *Gardens Illustrated* is a whistle-stop tour of remarkable places to inspire you for the year ahead. We visit an incredible garden in the Rift Valley, Kenya, designed by Jinny Blom where harmonising with the landscape is writ large, and a garden on the edge of the Monfragüe National Park, Extremadura, in western Spain, which is sharply in contrast to its setting. Both gardens are informed by their location; Jinny toured the roadside nurseries in Nairobi to inform the Kenyan planting scheme, and local plants are used as links of colour and form to the landscape in Spain. Think olive trees and low-growing shrubs with cacti, agave and other architectural.

A city garden, Le Jardin Secret is a new public work by Tom Stuart-Smith in Marrakech, Morocco, that has to be one of the most atmospheric urban gardens in the world. Sited within the walls of the ancient *medina*, the planting is intensely beautiful and fills a space that was hidden from view until recently. There is no clear distinction between inside and outside space in a *riad* and the plants provide relief from the heat and noise of the surrounding *souk*.

Plant hunter and garden writer Daniel J Hinkley takes a flight to New York State to visit the garden of America's most influential proponent of considered living, Martha Stewart. Martha has a private passion for peonies and shares, among other things, the peony field in which she grows an extensive collection of classic and contemporary cultivars. From here she selects her favourites for cutting. Daniel also asked Martha for recommendations for the best gardens to visit in the USA.

In the first of a new series – The Outsider – horticulturist and adventurer Hannah Gardner heads to La Gomera for a January travel fix. An expert plantswoman, Kew-trained Hannah travels widely and often, typically with her young daughter Eliza in tow. La Gomera is the second smallest of the Canary Islands; it can only be reached by boat, and is under the radar of most tourists, botanical or otherwise.

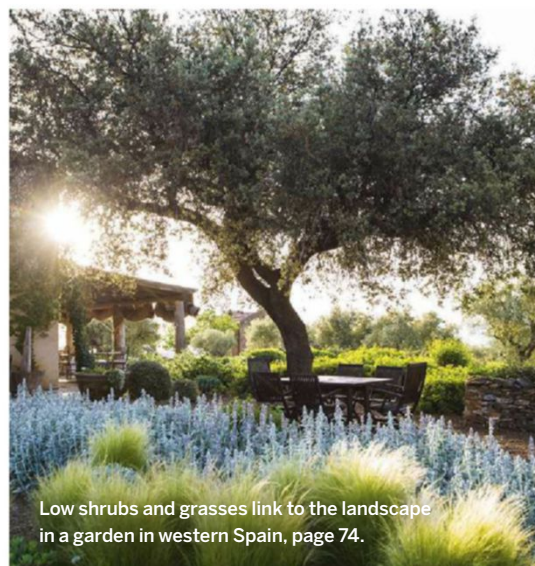
Planning ahead for 2018, we've a shortlist of the best garden festivals and plant fairs to visit in the UK and further afield, and with the guidance of leading designers and plantsmen, we have identified the design trends to note and most exciting plants to look out for this year.

The travel issue. Inspiration for adventurous friends.

Happy new year, and I hope you enjoy the issue,

Lucy Bellamy

LUCY BELLAMY, EDITOR



Low shrubs and grasses link to the landscape in a garden in western Spain, page 74.



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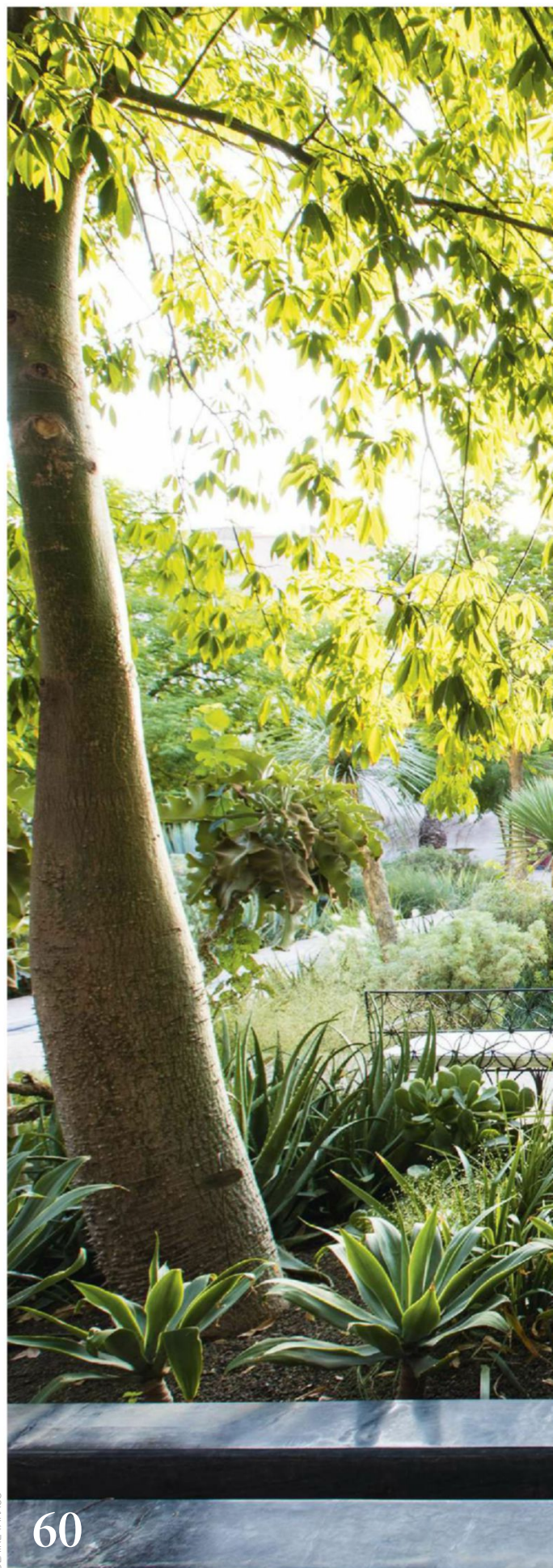
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CLAIRE TAKACS





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to *Gardens Illustrated* today

SEE PAGE 32

### COVER IMAGE

UK Andrew Montgomery  
Kenyan garden by  
Jinny Blom

### EVENTS AND OFFERS

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- Save money when you subscribe to the digital edition of *Gardens Illustrated* – page 32
- Save on a specially selected lily collection from HW Hyde & Son<sup>†</sup> – page 105

Tom Stuart-Smith's design for  
Le Jardin Secret in Marrakech.

<sup>†</sup> Reader offer open to UK  
and EU residents only.



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## CONTRIBUTORS



### CLAIRE TAKACS

Among the three diverse gardens Claire has shot this issue is Martha Stewart's, page 34. *"As an avid traveller, the January issue of Gardens Illustrated is always my favourite."*



### PONTUS WALLSTÉN

*Lilium* expert, Pontus profiles the genus, page 50. *"I've focused on the best lilies for the garden that bloom from May right up to September."*



### HANNAH GARDNER

Hannah begins a new monthly travel column, page 28. *"The Outsider column will open up my travel journals, and lead readers to discover some incredible places."*

## CONTRIBUTING EDITORS



### JAMES BASSON

James lives in the South of France where he runs Scape Design with his wife Helen and is a passionate advocate for dry gardens and for creating sustainable landscapes. The winner of four Chelsea Gold medals, he was awarded Best in Show in 2017.

### FERGUS GARRETT

Fergus was appointed head gardener at Great Dixter by Christopher Lloyd in 1993. He is passionate about passing on his knowledge through student and volunteer programmes at Dixter and through worldwide lectures. He was awarded an RHS Associate of Honour in 2008.

### ANNA PAVORD

Anna's books include her bestseller *The Tulip* and most recently *Landskipping*. For 30 years she was *The Independent's* gardening correspondent. In 2000 the RHS awarded her the Veitch Memorial Medal. She lives and gardens in Dorset.

### DAN PEARSON

Dan is one of the UK's best-known garden designers familiar to many through his television appearances and gardening columns in the *Observer* magazine. Many of his gardens, including the Tokachi Millennium Forest in Japan, have won awards and he was awarded Best in Show at Chelsea in 2015.

### SARAH PRICE

Sarah is one of the UK's most sought-after garden designers who won worldwide recognition for her designs for the 2012 London Olympic Park. She won Gold at Chelsea in 2012 and was named 2016 Garden Columnist of the year by the GMG for her design series in *Gardens Illustrated*.



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Villa Carlotta.



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# DIG IN

*What's happening, where to go, what's in flower and what to buy this month*



## TREE APPEAL

Ahead of the opening of the photography centre at London's Victoria and Albert museum later this year, an exhibition at the V&A, *Into the woods: Trees in photography*, explores how trees have been a source of inspiration to artists. Featuring works by photographers, such as Ansel Adams (pictured), the display marks the 800th anniversary of the Charter of the Forest and the launch of the 2017 Charter for Woods, Trees and People to help protect trees and woods in the UK. Until 30 April. [vam.ac.uk](http://vam.ac.uk)

ANSEL ADAMS, NORTHERN NEW MEXICO, 1958



# News

COMPILED BY ALYS HURN



Sarah Price's romanticised garden will celebrate colour and texture, light and shadow.

## Chelsea Flower Show 2018 highlights

This year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show, 22-26 May, will see ten show gardens fill Main Avenue. Big names include Sarah Price, who is returning to Chelsea after a five-year absence with a romanticised Mediterranean garden for show sponsor M&G Investments, Jo Thompson with a garden for Wedgwood and last year's People's Choice winner Chris Beardshaw for Morgan Stanley. New for this year will be Space to Grow gardens, which replace the former Fresh Garden category, and RHS Chelsea Late, an evening of music and entertainment on Friday night in Ranelagh Gardens. Tickets are on sale now at the RHS website. [rhs.org.uk](http://rhs.org.uk)

## GO MAD WITH TULIPS

The annual Dutch National Tulip Day, known as Nationale Tulpendag, takes place on 20 January this year in Dam Square, Amsterdam, with romance as its theme. Dutch tulip growers will mark the start of the tulip season with a large picking garden of around 200,000 tulips in a stunning, colour-rich display against the backdrop of the Royal Palace. Visitors can pick their own free tulips or simply enjoy the atmosphere of this dazzling event. [tulpen.nl](http://tulpen.nl)



Visitors admire the stunning display of blooms created by Dutch tulip growers.



## Landscape artist

This year marks 200 years since the death of the great English landscape designer Humphry Repton (1752-1818). Repton designed around 400 landscapes, including Woburn Abbey, and to celebrate his life and work the Gardens Trust is co-ordinating a series of events around the UK. At Woburn, a new exhibition (23 March – 28 October), features one of Repton's famous Red Books. Commissioned by the 6th Duke of Bedford in 1804, it shows Repton's ideas for the estate and his trademark before and after illustrations. [thegardenstrust.org](http://thegardenstrust.org)





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## Saving nature

Thanks to £4.6-million of National Lottery money, a new nationwide conservation programme aims to save 20 of Britain's threatened native animal, plant and fungi species from extinction and help a further 200 species under threat. *Back from the Brink* is run by Natural England and Rethink Nature, a coalition of leading wildlife charities. One project, led by Plantlife, will focus on careful habitat management of the lesser butterfly orchid, *Platanthera bifolia* (shown below). To support *Back from the Brink*, you can donate or volunteer at [naturebftb.co.uk](http://naturebftb.co.uk)



## Fields of green

Fields of *Allium* 'Bombay Red' seen growing in southeast Ethiopia gave paint specialist Annie Sloan the idea for the newest colour in her chalk paint range. The alliums are grown for their seeds by a co-operative of women farmers as part of an Oxfam-funded project, and the limited edition paint has been launched to celebrate the charity's 75th anniversary. 'Lem Lem', which takes its name from a local word to describe the colour of plants' fresh growth, is a soft green with a retro feel. One litre costs £18.95 and every pot sold raises funds for Oxfam. [anniesloan.com](http://anniesloan.com)

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# DIARY

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## 1 **Odyssean: Topographies**

A collaboration between four artists, Natasha Rosling, Alexander Stevenson, Alistair Grant and Simon Lee Dicker, explores how technology is changing our relationships to landscape, using sound, sculpture, food, film and digital animation. Until 25 February, 11am-4pm. Hestercombe Gallery, Hestercombe Gardens, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Taunton, Somerset TA2 8LG. Tel 01823 413923, hestercombe.com

## 2 **Nature in Bronze**

Look out for a selection of bronze wildlife figures by sculptor David Meredith that have been installed in the gardens of Trentham Estate. Until 1 March 2018, 10am-3pm. £9. Trentham Gardens, Trentham Estate, Stone Road, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire ST4 8JG. Tel 01782 646646, trentham.co.uk

## 3 **John Brookes: The Man Who Made the Modern Garden**

An exhibition of the life and works of landscape designer John Brookes, who introduced Modernism to British garden design. Until 25 March, 10.30am-5pm. Free with standard £10 entry to the museum. Garden Museum, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7LB. Tel 020 7401 8865, gardenmuseum.org.uk

## 4 **Designing with Shrubs**

Andy McIndoe will be talking about creative shrub gardening, the subject of his most recent book, and discussing his long career in horticulture and garden design. 12 January, 12.30pm. £30 (including lunch). Allomorphic Garden Store, 11 Lansdown, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 1BB. Tel 01453 767498, allomorphic.co.uk

## 5 **National Garden Scheme Garden Tour**

For an explanation of the design techniques of 'Capability' Brown and how they are being embraced at Trentham, join garden team manager Carol Adams on the NGS Garden Tour. 17 January, 10am. £6. Trentham Gardens, Trentham Estate, Stone Road, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire ST4 8JG. Tel 01782 646646, trentham.co.uk

## 6 **Growing Orchids as House Plants**

Learn how to revive your orchids and the secrets of success for growing them as house plants, on this half-day workshop. 17 January, 10am-12.30pm, £37. RHS Garden Harlow Carr, Crag Lane, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG3 1QB. Tel 020 3176 5830, rhs.org.uk/gardens/harlow-carr

## 7 **Watercolour Painting: Snowdrops**

Try different watercolour techniques and learn how to paint a beautiful drift of snowdrops with local artist Sandra Peck. Refreshments, cream tea and entry to the gardens is included. 18 January, 10.30am-4pm. £65. Barnsdale Gardens, The Avenue, Exton, Oakham LE15 8AH. Tel 01572 813200, barnsdalegardens.co.uk

## 8 **Celebration of Snowdrops**

This annual event is a chance to see and buy rare snowdrop species and cultivars from renowned collectors such as Edulis Nursery and Glen Chantry. There is also a 20 per cent discount on all Harveys Garden Plants perennials on the day. 20 January, 10am-2pm. £2.50. Harveys Garden Plants, Great Green, Thurston, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP31 3SJ. Tel 01359 233363, harveysgardenplants.co.uk

## 9 **The Ultimate Snowdrop Sale**

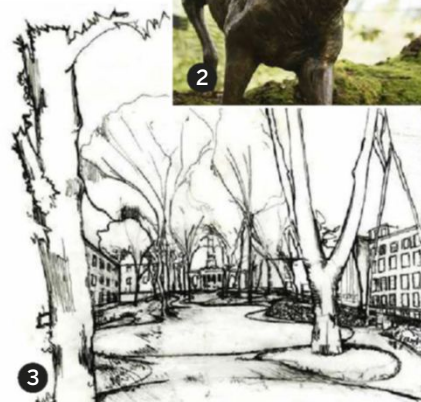
Snowdrops, fetching between £5 and £1,000 per plant will be available from a select range of nurseries selling old favourites and rare cultivars. 27 January, 10.30am-12pm. Myddelton House Gardens, Bulls Cross, Enfield, Middlesex EN2 9HG. Tel 0300 003 0610, visitilevalley.org.uk

## 10 **An Introduction to Garden Design**

Learn the basics of garden design on this six-day taster course led by SGD member Cheri LaMay at RHS Harlow Carr in Yorkshire. Six Fridays from 27 January, 10am-4pm. £414. RHS Garden Harlow Carr, Crag Lane, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG3 1QB. Tel 020 3176 5830, rhs.org.uk/gardens/harlow-carr

## 11 **Coppicing Course**

A half-day course with expert arborists from Oxford Botanic Garden's Arboretum. 27 January, 9am-1pm. £30. Harcourt Arboretum, Nuneham Courtenay, Oxfordshire OX44 9PX. Tel 01865 610305, botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk/harcourt-arboretum



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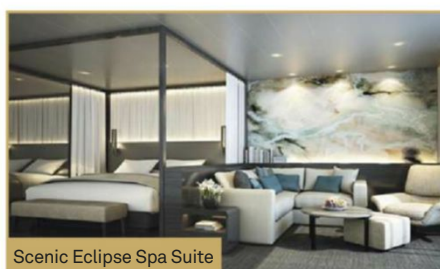
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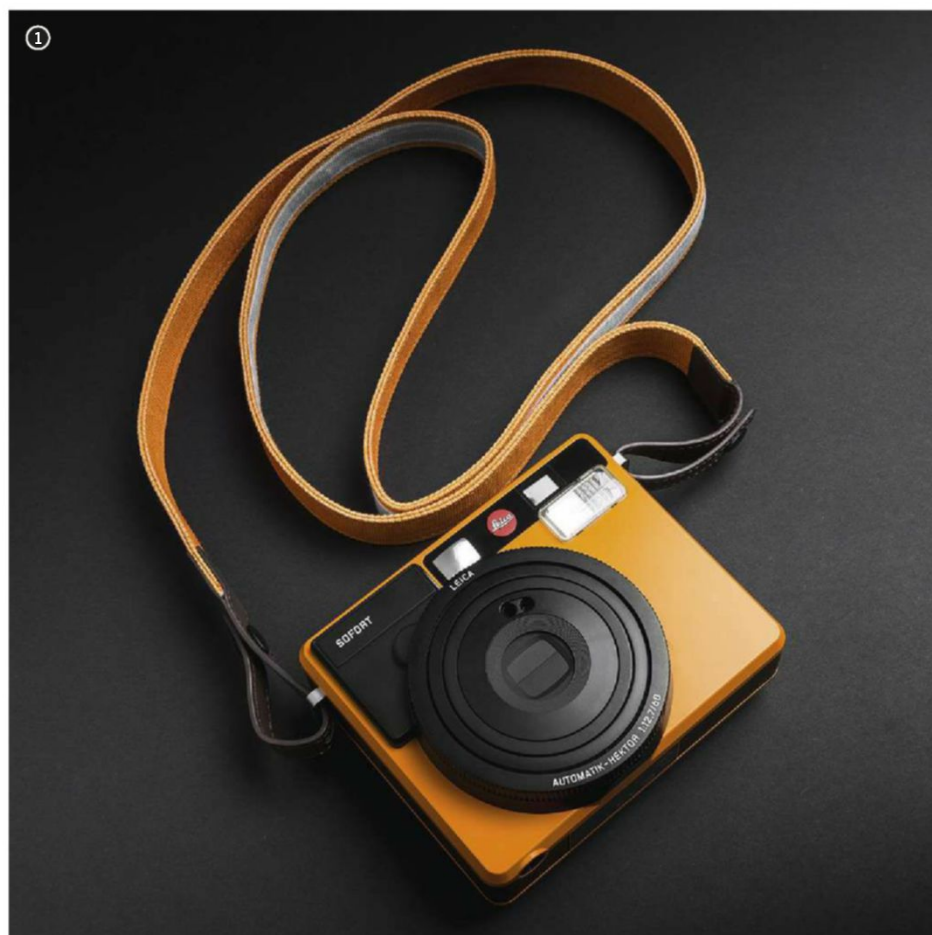
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## BOTANICAL MELTING POT

Australia's horticultural credentials are rich, eclectic and up there with the world's finest. This is botanical diversity on an epic scale

**A**ustralia may be known for its arid outback extremities, but it's also home to a diverse wealth of colourful, vibrant and fascinating flora.

Botanica World Discoveries is the name to book with if you're looking to learn about the Australian botanical blueprint and travel with like-minded people, in a small, inclusive group. Its 16-day Australian Botanical Discovery Tour, escorted by six-time gold medal award-winning RHS garden designer Anthea Guthrie, gives a beguiling insight into the country's mountains, homesteads, rainforests and tropical landscapes.

Informative and unique, the itinerary takes in iconic natural sights, from the Blue Mountains and the subaqueous gardens of the Great Barrier Reef through to botanical gardens, national parks and private gardens rarely open to the public. Here are just a few of the horticultural highlights this memorable trip has to offer:

### Perth and Western Australia's wildflowers

Take in the beautiful sights of Perth, the jewel in Western Australia's crown. You'll see Kings Park, which boasts more than 400 hectares of land, home to more than 1,700 native species in spring bloom. Your stay here also includes a scenic cruise along the Swan River to

nearby Fremantle, as you discover more about this historic part of Australia.

### Botanical Ark, Mossman Gorge and indigenous rainforest culture

Home to a rare and revered collection of plants from across the globe, the privately owned Botanical Ark in Mossman is sure to inspire. It's a unique site and arguably one of Australia's finest living examples of how people can co-exist with rainforests and maintain a positive ecological impact. From here, travel to the nearby Daintree Rainforest and take a tour from Mossman Gorge with the local Kuku Yalangi guides to learn about the indigenous history and flora of the area.

### The Dandenong Ranges, bush art sculptures and private garden

Explore the Dandenong Ranges National Park, with its eclectic mix of quaint mountaintop villages, tree-clad peaks and panoramic vistas of nearby Melbourne. Visit the William Ricketts Sanctuary and admire the unique collection of bush art sculptures, then visit a local private garden designed by Chelsea Flower Show 'Best in Show' winner Phillip Johnson.







**Tom Coward**  
Head gardener,  
Gravetye Manor

*Rosa x odorata* 'Mutabilis'

The name 'Mutabilis' means changing, which is just one of this lovely plant's many charms. In spring it has beautiful, purplish young foliage, which combines well with aquilegia and tulips. By early summer it flowers, continuing until the first hard frost, opening buff yellow and ageing to pinky crimson. Ours worked well with *Lupinus* 'The Chatelaine' and later in the summer with *Dahlia* 'Magenta Star'. AGM\*.

**Height** 1.5m.

**Origin** Unknown, but possibly China.

**Conditions** Full sun in moist but well-drained soil.

**Hardiness** RHS H5, USDA 6a-9b†.

**Season of interest** Spring foliage, summer flowers.



# INSIDER CHOICE

We asked ten experts which plants they are most excited about growing in their gardens in 2018



IMAGEBROKER / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO



**Tom Attwood**

Garden designer and nursery owner, Abi and Tom's Garden Plants

## *Hedychium gardnerianum*

A hardy ginger that has left me smitten after trialling it in our tropical garden. Luxuriant, glossy foliage is married with exotic-looking yellow flowerheads with distinctive red stamens, carrying a sweet, delicate scent. Fleshy rhizomes that look similar to culinary ginger fuel the burst of growth in spring. Mulch in winter. AGM.

**Height** 1.5m.

**Origin** Himalayas.

**Conditions** Fertile, moist but well-drained soil in full sun or partial shade.

**Hardiness** RHS H2, USDA 8a-10b.

**Season of interest** Late summer to autumn.



**Derry Watkins**

Nursery owner, Special Plants

## *Gillenia trifoliata* 'Pink Profusion'

Gillenias have starry white flowers on fine red stems that hover over green leaves in June. They need at least half a day of sun to flower well in this country. This new compact form has handsome, purple-flushed leaves, but the soft-pink flowers are what captured my heart.

**Height** 60cm.

**Origin** Eastern North America.

**Conditions** Dappled sun, not too dry. Books say acid soil, but thrives on my alkaline clay.

**Hardiness** USDA 3a-8b.

**Season of interest** June flowers, attractive seedheads in July/August, autumn colour.



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HELGA NOACK / THE GARDEN COLLECTION / FP



**Arne Maynard**

Garden designer

## *Citrus trifoliata*

This frost-hardy, Asian bitter orange offers beautiful trifoliate leaves, fragrant blossom, fabulous autumn leaf colour and classic orange fruits (which can be dried, candied or used in jams and jellies) and impressive structural shape (with large thorns – gloves advisable for pruning). A versatile hedging or feature plant.

**Height** 4-8m (10-20 years).

**Origin** China and Korea.

**Conditions** Well-drained soil in full sun.

**Hardiness** RHS H5, USDA 6a-9b.

**Season of interest** Flowers in spring and early summer, fruits in autumn and winter.



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**Dave Ward**

Garden and nursery  
director, the Beth  
Chatto Gardens

### *Symphytum x uplandicum* 'Moorland Heather'

I just love the unusual colour of this non-invasive comfrey. It has striking dusky, dark violet-purple flowers from April to June. Comfrey has lots of beneficial uses, such as a compost activator or a poultice for bruises. Equally at home in sunny borders, dappled shade or wilder, more naturalistic settings. Excellent for bees.

**Height** 75cm-1m.

**Origin** Moorland Cottage Plants, Wales.

**Conditions** Sun or partial shade.

**Hardiness** RHS H7, USDA 5.

**Season of interest** May onwards.



HEATHER EDWARDS / GAP PHOTOS



JASON INGRAM / GAP PHOTOS

**Tom Brown**

Head gardener,  
Parham House

### *Cirsium rivulare* 'Trevor's Blue Wonder'

I adore using the naturalistic *Cirsium rivulare* 'Atropurpureum'. Now there's a new cirsium in my life – 'Trevor's Blue Wonder', spotted in Chris Beardshaw's 2017 Chelsea garden. I plan to add it in swathes to our Blue Border for its smoky purple tones.

**Height** 1m.

**Origin** Europe.

**Conditions** Reasonable, free-draining soil in sun or partial shade.

**Hardiness** RHS H7.

**Season of interest** Early summer and then sporadically until October.



FHF GREENMEDIA / GAP PHOTOS

**Graham Gough**

Nursery owner,  
Marchants Hardy Plants

### *Anthericum ramosum*

No newcomer, yet seldom encountered, this European meadow plant is also known as St Bernard's lily. Its grassy foliage is nondescript, but the delicate flowers reward with a stellar display of myriad Lilliputian-sized white lilies carried on branched wiry stems. Our plants still flourish after 17 years and it is as easy to cultivate as it is to enjoy.

**Height** 80cm.

**Origin** Southern Europe.

**Conditions** Full sun in moist but well-drained soil.

**Hardiness** RHS H5, USDA 6a-9b.

**Season of interest** May to June.

## FURTHER DETAILS

How to find the plants chosen by our plantspeople – and more about their work

If you would like to grow any of these recommended plants, many of our chosen plantspeople are also nursery owners, with whom you can enquire about plant availability. Alternatively, you can check which other nurseries have stock in the annual publication *RHS Plant Finder*, or via the website [apps.rhs.org.uk/horticulturaldatabase/index.asp](https://apps.rhs.org.uk/horticulturaldatabase/index.asp)

- **Tom Coward** is head gardener at Gravetye Manor in Sussex, where he gardens in the footsteps of innovative Victorian gardener William Robinson. Tom continues Robinson's early principles of naturalised planting, coupled with a 21st-century spirit of experimentation. Tel 01342 810567, [gravetyemanor.co.uk](https://gravetyemanor.co.uk)
- **Tom Atwood** and his wife

run Abi and Tom's Garden Plants. The nursery is based in Halecat, Cumbria, and all of their plants have been trialled for hardiness and garden worthiness. Tel 01539 552946, [abiandtom.co.uk](https://abiandtom.co.uk)

- **Derry Watkins** is an expert plantswoman who runs the nursery Special Plants in Wiltshire, near Bath, offering an interesting selection of more unusual

plants and seed. Her garden is also an inspirational visit. Tel 01225 891686, [specialplants.net](https://specialplants.net)

- **Arne Maynard** is an award-winning garden designer known for his romantic garden designs that combine the classic and the contemporary – always with a sensitivity to place. B&B guests can enjoy the garden at his Monmouthshire home ▶





JULIE PIGULA / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO



**Marina Christopher**

Nursery owner, Phoenix Perennial Plants

*Salvia nutans*

This elegant, nodding sage has branching, pendant-like flower spikes of a sumptuous violet blue over large basal rosettes of rugose, green leaves. Hardy, but prone to depredation by slugs and snails, it is best suited to a sunny rock or gravel garden that can act as a deterrent to these greedy pests. A magnet for pollinators.

**Height** 1.2-1.5m.

**Origin** Cental Hungary and southwest Bulgaria, eastwards to east-central Russia.

**Conditions** Full sun and free-draining soil.

**Hardiness** RHS H7, USDA 6a-9b.

**Season of interest** Late spring to August.



RYM FLORAL / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO



**Chris Marchant**

Plantswoman and nursery co-owner at Orchard Dene Nurseries

*Lobelia tupa*

This plant is great for a late-season flourish. Clumps of felted leaves build in size and strength throughout the spring. Burgundy stems culminate in elaborate tapering spikes of brick-red tubular flowers. We grow this in a sun-baked, south-facing bed near the door where it catches plenty of warmth and admiring glances.

**Height** 1-2m.

**Origin** Chile.

**Conditions** Sheltered site, free-draining soil, full sun.

**Hardiness** RHS H4, USDA 8b-9a.

**Season of interest** August onwards.



AMANDA PATTON



**Jimi Blake**

Garden owner, Hunting Brook Gardens

*Salvia dombeyi*

Of the 238 salvias I am trialling, *Salvia dombeyi* is by far the most spectacular. It has long, pendulous flowers, deep scarlet in colour, with a near-black calyx. This multi-stemmed plant needs a means of support, which could be that of another plant. If I could grow only one tender plant, this would be it.

**Height** 1.5-2.5m.

**Origin** Peru and Bolivia.

**Growing conditions** Full sun and free-draining soil.

**Hardiness** Frost-tender, USDA 10a-11.

**Season of interest** July to October.

Allt-y-bela. Tel 020 7689 8100, arnemaynard.com. For Allt-y-bela: Tel 07892 403103, alltybela.co.uk  
• **Dave Ward** is garden and nursery director at the Beth Chatto Gardens in Essex. It was Beth Chatto who first championed the 'right plant, right place' principle and the nursery's selection reflects this considered approach to planting. Tel 01206 822007,

bethchatto.co.uk  
• Plantsman **Graham Gough** has gained recognition as a nurseryman of one of the leading small nurseries in the country, Marchants Hardy Plants in East Sussex. Tel 01323 811737, marchantshardyplants.co.uk  
• **Tom Brown** is head gardener at Parham House in West Sussex where the

gardens include a four-acre Walled Garden in which plants are trialled for both border displays and cut flowers. Tel 01903 742021, parhaminsussex.co.uk  
• Wholesale nursery Orchard Dene is run by **Chris and Toby Marchant**, who work closely with the top designers in the country to refine their planting selections. Their expert plant choices make them regular

consultants to Chelsea Flower Show designers. Tel 01491 575075, orcharddene.co.uk  
• **Marina Christopher** is renowned for her expertise in selecting new and often rare perennials, with a particular focus on insect-friendly planting. Her nursery, Phoenix Perennial Plants in Hampshire, can be visited by appointment only, or keep an eye out for

Marina at plant fairs. Tel 01420 560695.  
• Avid plantsman and planthunter **Jimi Blake** is the owner of Hunting Brook Gardens in County Wicklow, Ireland, described as a 'dynamic and innovative' garden. He also lectures regularly and runs a series of courses and planting masterclasses. Tel +353 (0)87 285 6601, huntingbrook.com



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# The Outsider

*Horticulturist and adventurer Hannah Gardner travels the world in search of planting inspiration. In the first of a new series, she is exploring the volcanic hills of La Gomera in the Canary Islands*

WORDS HANNAH GARDNER ILLUSTRATIONS ALICE PATTULLO

For my January travel fix I was looking for sun, short flight time, dramatic landscapes with varied hiking trails with the opportunity to botanise new flora. With the added promise of a national park of unsullied subtropical cloud forest and soft, dark, volcanic sand, La Gomera in the Canary Islands sealed the deal. I arrived on a sleepy evening ferry – 45 minutes from the Tenerife port of Los Cristianos. La Gomera is under the radar of most tourists, botanical or otherwise. It is the second smallest, or ‘middle child’ of the seven volcanic Canary Islands and dictates arrival by boat. The island is oceanic, meaning it emerged from the Atlantic Ocean as the result of volcanic activity, rather than as a breakaway from a continental landmass. This encourages a diverse flora, high in endemic species (unique plants that occur only there).

## Inspiration for the trip

I first heard of La Gomera from adventurous friends who had sailed there. Columbus had beaten that path before them, fallen in love, and in turn delayed his great expedition to discover the Americas to stay on the island for a while. My friends’ comments of: “Not the Azores, but similar (and nearer)” and “You’d like it, I saw weird plants like fancy dinner plates” piqued my interest.

## When to go

The climate at sea level is an easy, year-round 20–27°C, but the routes inland are vertiginous, the rise in altitude abrupt, and at an average of one degree cooler per 100m elevation, it is easy to lose 14 degrees as you climb into the mountains. Be prepared and pack your shorts and thermals.

## Where to go

Hermigua, in the northeast, 12 miles from the unfussy port of San Sebastián, makes a great base for exploring the laurisilva forests and peaks of the national park; the green

heart of the island. Well-marked hiking routes explore an area of extraordinary beauty. In the laurisilva you’ll discover gigantic evergreen trees enjoying the shelter of the steep ravines, and lush thickets of vegetation on the forest floor.

The most easily identifiable evergreen members of the laurel family are *Ocotea foetens* (up to 40m) and the official symbol of the island, *Persea indica*. It’s distinguished by its large smooth leaves and black drupes. Beneath them lie a carpet of stately ferns, *Geranium canariense* and *Digitalis canariensis* – the shrubby orange Canary foxglove.

Continue up towards the twin peaks of Alto de Garajonay (1,484m) and you’ll pass through areas of *fayal-brezal* heathland where ghostly tree heathers (*Erica arborea*) and the smooth-leaved Canary holly (*Ilex canariensis*) are laden with intricate lichens.

For a change of scene, descend and explore the southern *barrancos* (ravines) that lead to Valle Gran Rey. I completed a great trail stretching from Arure to Chipude and down to the coast. On these open slopes you can enjoy aromatic shrubs, succulents and cacti.

Look out for *Ceropegia dichotoma*, a narrow, cylindrically stemmed endemic succulent or the leafless *Euphorbia aphylla*. *Euphorbia balsamifera*, and the useful canary endemics *Lavandula canariensis*, *Cistus chinamadensis*, *Cytisus proliferus* create a low scrubland as you drop towards the coast. In the valley microclimates I saw opportunist *Aeonium*, their showy flat whorls easily spotted from great distances. Towards the town the palms, deep-rooted introduced cactus *Opuntia ficus-indica* and architectural *Agave* prevented wind erosion. Once again it was abundant, sheltered, sunny, and I had reached the sea.

## Plants to grow at home

You cannot bring the flora of La Gomera home, but you can take inspiration. Cacti and succulents can cope with very dry conditions, making them easy pot plants

for the neglectful gardener. *Aeonium*, plentiful on La Gomera’s southern slopes, take different forms: some are sub-shrubs (*A. decorum*, *A. lindleyi* var. *viscatum*), others flatter whorls. The *Aeonium canariense* var. *subplanum* is found on the island on steep hillsides, lava cliffs, walls and even rooftops. They freely hybridise, so lots of attractive hybrids and compact cultivars are now available in cultivation.

*Aeonium* require full sun and gritty loam-based compost. Keep almost dry and frost free during the winter. They love to be outside in a bright spot for the summer months and need some water. It is easy to increase your numbers – or start again if your plant is getting a bit leggy. Cut off a good rosette with a 5cm stem, allow the newly cut surface to dry for a couple of days, then push the stem into a pot of gritty compost. It should quickly root and grow away. The parent plant will endure, and once repotted, shoot from the original stem.

They are a great addition to a Mediterranean or gravel garden, especially in containers, so they can easily be lifted inside to a cool glasshouse or porch during the winter months.

## Guides and maps

*Walk! La Gomera* by Jan Kostura and Charles Davis (Discovery Walking Guides, £12.99). *Native Flora of the Canary Islands* by Miguel Angel Cabrera Perez (Editorial Everest, 2000). *La Gomera 1:30,000 Hiking Map #231*, Kompass Maps, £10.95. *La Gomera ‘Tour and Trail’ Super-Durable Map*, Discovery Walking Guides, £8.99.

## Where to stay

There are many places to stay on the island but as a good base for hiking I’d recommend: Hotel Rural Ibo Alfaro Barrio Ibo Alfaro, S/N, 38820 Hermigua, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain. Tel +34 922 88 01 68, hotel-gomera.com









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GARDENING TALENT

## Andrew Luke

As head gardener at Wrest Park in Bedfordshire, Andrew is playing a key role in the 20-year project to restore the 18th-century garden's historic features to their former glory

PORTRAIT ANDREW MONTGOMERY

**Earliest gardening memory** My mother's dedication and experimentation in our own garden as well as her small greenhouses fascinated me as a child. Seeing the plants change over time sparked a real interest in horticulture.

**Horticultural heroes** Roy Lancaster is such an inspiration. His extensive plant knowledge, which he is always keen to share, alongside his enthusiasm to get people engaged with plants makes him a real hero for me.

**Favourite garden that has influenced you** I spent 17 years at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, so it has a special place in my heart. However, visiting Kirstenbosch National Botanic Garden, in Cape Town, South Africa, which appears to extend into Table Mountain, was a breathtaking experience.

**Most valuable training** Before the Kew diploma, I spent three years studying for my National Diploma at Myerscough College in Lancashire, which provided a great theoretical and practical course to form the basis of my further studies and career.

**Dream plant destination** Nothing beats seeing plants in the wild, discovering unknown species and the challenge of growing them in

cultivation. In the future, I would love to be involved in a collecting trip to Bhutan and Nepal.

**Favourite gardening blogs or books** *New Trees: Recent Introduction to Cultivation* by John Grimshaw and Ross Bayton is one of my favourite books; it is a great source of information on new introductions into cultivation. The Hardy Plant Society website ([hardy-plant.org.uk](http://hardy-plant.org.uk)) puts together a great range of topical blogs about plants and gardens, which I enjoy reading and also occasionally write for.

**Ideal weekend** In the summer months, I enjoy seeking out native orchids, which provides a good walk and the opportunity for a picnic, and takes me and my partner all over the country.

**Next big project** At Wrest Park we are currently restoring the northeast section of the Great Gardens. This involves a lot of replanting and bringing the woodland back to a formal historic design.

**Contact** @PlantGrafter on Twitter

• Wrest Park, Silsoe, Bedfordshire MK45 4HR.  
Tel 01525 860000, [english-heritage.org.uk](http://english-heritage.org.uk)



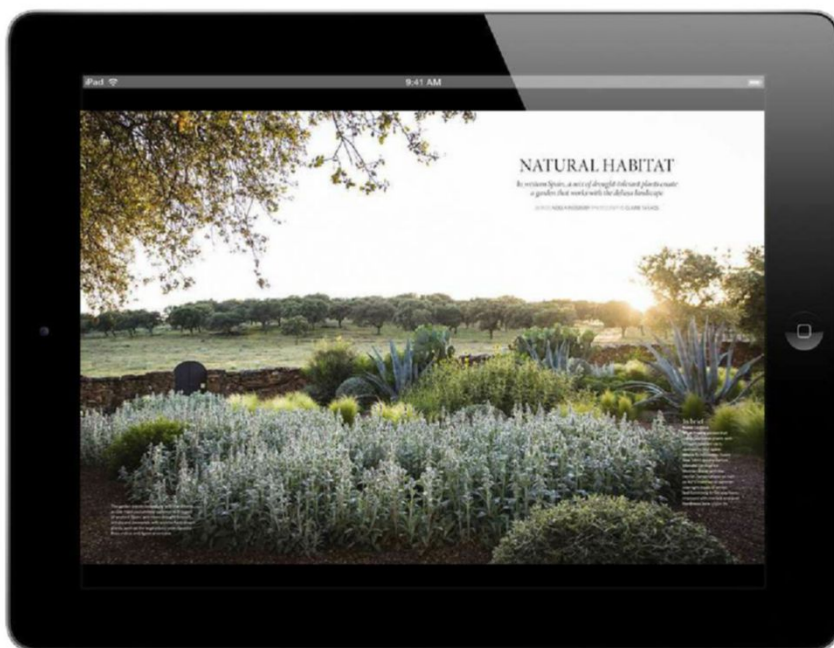
# GARDENS

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# LIVING IN STYLE

*In the gardens of her New York State farm,  
Martha Stewart has created a series of spaces that reflect  
her passion for learning and experimentation*

WORDS DANIEL J HINKLEY PHOTOGRAPHS CLAIRE TAKACS

## In brief

**Name** Cantitoe Corners.

**What** The private garden of Martha Stewart.

**Where** Bedford, New York.

**Size** 152 acres.

**Soil** Gravelly clay loam.

**Climate** Humid continental with warm summers and snow cover in winter. Temperatures reach an average high in summer of 29°C and an average low in winter of -4°C. Annual average rainfall is 1,244mm and average annual snowfall is 838mm.

**Hardiness zone** USDA 6b.





Built in 1925, the Winter House is one of three houses on Martha Stewart's 152-acre property and her main residence. At its front is a formal parterre that gives way to softly rounded balls of box, which provide some privacy for the small dining terrace to the side and help to create a seamless blend to more natural areas.



MUCH OF MARTHA'S 152 ACRES  
IS LEFT AS OPEN PASTURE OR AS  
GARDENS WITH LONG VISTAS







I am sitting in the kitchen of Martha Stewart, possibly America's most influential proponent of considered living. Martha is serving me eggs, gathered only that morning from her flock of rare-breed chickens, on freshly baked brioche, when she asks a question I'm not expecting and which I'm not quite sure how to answer. "So, what am I doing wrong in my garden?"

I'm hesitating not because Martha is such a well-known public figure, familiar to millions for decades through her magazines and television appearances, but because I'm still too swept away by the entire landscape of Cantitoe Corners to consider critiquing any part of it. Cantitoe Corners, what Martha calls "a new kind of farm" is located just 60 miles northeast of Manhattan near the village of Bedford, in New York State. Much of its 152 acres are left as open pasture or as gardens with long vistas. While other gardens are more enclosed and intimate with woodland planting that blend seamlessly into an area of native woodland – *Acer saccharum*, *A. rubrum*, *Fraxinus americana* and *Pinus strobus* – through which a stream flows and occasional glades appear.

You can immediately recognise some of Martha's television persona in the garden's embrace of experimentation blended

To continue turn to page 40

**Above** Martha Stewart with her dogs.

**Left** A cast iron sugar kettle, which Martha uses as a firepit for parties, sits at the centre of a raised, flagstone terrace in front of her house. A two-tone parterre made up of dark-green *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa' and golden *Berberis thunbergii* 'Aurea' surround loosely clipped standard boxwood dotted with bright colour from alliums.





## LESSONS FROM MARTHA

**1 Get to know your soil.** It's worth getting a comprehensive soil analysis of every corner of your property as the soil environment can change drastically from one part of your garden to another. If you're thinking of moving it may be worth checking the soils of the property before you buy.

**2 Use groundcover plants, shrubs and trees** to form the back bone of your garden. Make your herbaceous borders small enough to maintain the space properly and help it sing.

**3 Buy from as many nurseries as possible** to get the widest range of interesting plants, and don't be tempted just to look at the pictures in the catalogue, be sure to read the catalogue descriptions as well.

**4 Be curious and experiment.** Although Martha has favourite roses and irises, she always orders new cultivars each year. Seek out the diversity that exists within each group of plants, whether that be bearded iris or maples.

**5 Minimise the size of your lawn.** Not only are lawns always high maintenance, but they are not great for the environment, their maintenance often requiring vast amounts of water, pesticides and herbicides.

**6 Mulch, using whatever local source of mulch** you have available. This will reduce both the amount of time you spend weeding and the amount of water you need to use to keep your plants healthy – all while enriching your soil.

**7 If you make a mistake rectify it** and carry on. Too many of us live with our bad decisions in the garden because they cost us money.

**8 Cherish your garden and the land it encompasses** and attempt to preserve it for the next generation of gardeners.



A large, multi-story house with a stone chimney and a large garden filled with pink and white peonies. The house is surrounded by lush greenery and trees, with a misty background. The garden in the foreground is a dense field of peonies in various shades of pink and white, growing in a hedged area. The house has a grey roof and white siding, with a prominent stone chimney on the right side. The background is filled with tall evergreen trees and a misty atmosphere.

SOFTER PLANTINGS OF ROUNDED  
BOX LEAD DOWN TO A HALF ACRE  
OF COLOUR AND FRAGRANCE

**This page** Close to her house Martha has created a hedged area of roughly half an acre where she is evaluating the merits of different peony cultivars.

**Facing page** The sunken garden behind Martha's Summer House is dominated by a stunning *Ginkgo biloba* tree, thought to be around 250 years old.



#### Clockwise from top left

**Double rows of clipped dwarf box** pierced by dwarf *Ginkgo biloba* 'Troll', criss-cross densely planted borders that are filled with a mix of perennials and small shrubs and trees, including hostas, lilies and cotinus.

**Along one side of the main driveway** a long pergola curves through a planted border filled with alliums, oriental poppies, lilies and catmint, while clematis and climbing roses clamber up the granite supports.

**Close to the guest house** Martha has combined different textures of foliage, including the rich-green *Ulmus glabra* 'Camperdownii', the deep red *Acer palmatum* 'Dissectum', *Rodgersia podophylla*, *Astilboides tabularis*, *Polygonatum x hybridum* and various hostas.

**A white azalea** dominates the shaded borders close to the main house, with a texturally rich ground covering of *Adiantum aleuticum*, *Deinantha bifida* and several hostas.

▷ with a passion for learning, Martha Stewart is above all else inquisitive. Her plant inventory is well researched and vetted. If a plant remains here after a year or three of trialling, Martha's nod of approval is worth noting. More evidence of her inquisitiveness is on show in her greenhouse, a classic glass and aluminium structure that houses her collection of begonias and a heady assortment of rare succulents, while an adjoining structure is home to a collection of potted citrus plants.

Near the greenhouse is a fenced cutting garden, almost an acre in size. Once home to the vegetable garden, now relocated next to Martha's chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys, the space offers more opportunities for Martha to trial new cultivars and varieties of (to name just a few) *Iris germanica*, *Baptisia*, lilies, lupins and alliums. The best of these trials, once they have been fully evaluated, will earn a place in flower arrangements for Martha's table or in photo shoots in her studio.

Woodland planting with richly textured foliage is also a feature of Martha's garden. The approach to her house – one of three on the property, the oldest dating back to the 18th century – takes you past *Acer saccharum* and *Pinus strobus* clad in *Hydrangea anomala* subsp. *petiolaris* var. *cordifolia*, which in early summer appear as columns of white rising out of highly textured layers of foliage. On one side of the driveway is a newly planted but substantial collection of native as well as exotic species of *Stewartia*, underplanted different layers of foliage to create textures from which, in early summer, grow hundreds of *Lilium martagon*.

Facing the *Stewartia* is a snaking, 60m pergola that in summer is covered by hybrid clematis and climbing roses. Either side of it densely planted borders are filled with a mix of perennials and annuals to provide interest right through to autumn, and in June includes alliums and oriental poppies.

Near the house itself, gardens are understated and intimate. Staghorn ferns hang on the walls of the shaded porch, while directly in front of the house a striking parterre of clipped box and golden-leaved *Berberis thunbergii*. Softer plantings of rounded box lead down to a box-hedged half acre of colour and fragrance, another cutting garden where Martha is trialling various peonies to evaluate the worthiness of classic versus more contemporary cultivars. In time many of these stems will adorn tables in Martha's home and other venues, but for now they are an unexpected pleasure in a garden full of deliberate and well thought out surprises. What is Martha doing wrong? Absolutely nothing. □

Turn the page for ten of Martha's favourite woodland plants











Martha Stewart's "new kind of farm" in Bedford, New York.

## MARTHA'S RECOMMENDED US GARDENS

### The Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, New York

Based in 52 acres, just a stone's throw from Manhattan, the gardens are home to the Steinhardt Conservatory and many themed gardens throughout. The garden holds over 14,000 taxa of plants. [bbg.org](http://bbg.org)

### Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, Pasadena, California

The 120-acre garden boasts one of the world's best collections of cacti and succulents, with more than 5,000 species represented. There is also a Japanese and a Chinese Garden, along with a gallery holding significant collections of American and European art. [huntington.org](http://huntington.org)

### Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

The 1,077-acre estate of Pierre du Pont, the Longwood Gardens are one of the finest horticultural display gardens in the USA in the midst of the beautiful Brandywine Creek Valley. With conservatories and extensive outdoor plantings, the gardens are open year round with an extensive educational component. [longwoodgardens.org](http://longwoodgardens.org)

### Lotusland, Montecito, California

Based near Santa Barbara, this fantastic 37-acre garden is the historic estate of Polish opera singer Ganna Walska, with significant collections of cacti, cycads and ferns. The Blue Garden and Water Garden remain favourites for all visitors. [lotusland.org](http://lotusland.org)

### New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York

The USA's premier botanical garden and educational institution on 250 acres, with extensive plantings representing an enormous breadth of temperate, tropical and arid flora. [nybg.org](http://nybg.org)

## TEN OF MARTHA'S FAVOURITE WOODLAND FOLIAGE PLANTS

### 1 *Diphylleia cymosa*

A broad-leaved member of the barberry family from the Appalachian Mountains, with two-lobed leaves up to 38cm across. In early summer, clusters of pretty white flowers float above the foliage, followed by stunning crops of blue berries held on bright-red pedicels. 61cm. USDA 5a-9b<sup>+</sup>.

### 2 *Deinanthef bifida*

Known as false hydrangea with bifid, or two-tipped leaves. In early to midsummer, clusters of precious white or pink flowers are produced at the end of each stem, shyly nodding downward. *Deinanthef caerulea* is closely related with lovely blue flowers. 60cm. USDA 4a-8b.

### 3 *Podophyllum versipelle* 'Spotty Dotty'

A popular and highly unusual mayapple hybrid that slowly spreads to form colonies 90cm across. It is distinguished by handsomely mottled, broad and irregularly lobed leaves. Clusters of red flowers are borne in early summer, but hidden beneath the leaf blade. 35cm. AGM\*. RHS H4, USDA 6a-9b.

### 4 *Darmera peltata*

When planted in rich, evenly moist soils it will slowly form colonies of glossy, rounded leaves. In early spring, clusters of pretty, pink flowers appear on 40cm stems before the leaves emerge. 1.5m. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 5a-7b.

### 5 *Ligularia dentata* 'Desdemona'

Best grown in cool, evenly moist soils and protected from midday sun. This is cultivated as much for its boldly textured, purple-black foliage that rises to 60cm as for its colourful, orange, daisy-like flowers that rise slightly above the foliage in midsummer. 90cm. RHS H7, USDA 3a-8b.

### 6 *Muehlenbeckia complexa*

The creeping wire vine is an evergreen shrub from New Zealand and Australia, with small, dark-green leaves and wiry, reddish-brown stems. Although it will creep to form a very low, highly textural groundcover, it will build upon itself to create a 90cm shrub if left to its own devices. Excellent in sun or shade. 3m. RHS H3, USDA 8a-10b.

### 7 *Hosta* 'Praying Hands'

This recent hybrid selection produces folded, pleasingly contorted and twisted, deep-green foliage with a creamy-white leaf margin, held stiffly upright. 45cm. AGM. RHS H7, USDA 3a-8b.

### 8 *Adiantum aleuticum*

The superb and highly textural northern maidenhair fern has wiry black stems carrying softly textured, bright-yellow-green foliage that forms significant mounds. Superb in providing textural relief to larger foliaged perennials. 45cm. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 4a-9b.

### 9 *Hosta* 'Halcyon'

A deservedly popular blue-green hosta, with substantial, highly textural leaves that are largely resistant to damage by slugs and snails. It holds its beguiling powdery-blue colour throughout the season and will demonstrate some drought tolerance when firmly established. Prefers part shade. 50cm. AGM. RHS H7, USDA 3a-8b.

### 10 *Petasites frigidus* var. *palmaris* 'Golden Palms'

A decidedly stoloniferous plant. Its deeply cleft, peltate foliage is brightly variegated in yellow and helps to bring together planting in the woodland border. Flowering begins in late winter and early spring, with dense, white panicles appearing above the soil before the foliage appears. 45cm. USDA 6a-9b.







## In brief

**Name** Arijiju.

**What** Domestic garden in harmony with its environment, including a calm courtyard area, green roofs covered in native grasses and an elephant ha-ha. Extensive landforming has been used to manage heavy rainfall,

**Where** Laikipia County, Kenya.

**Size** Courtyard area: 25 x 18m.

**Climate** Cool temperate, with mean annual temperatures of 16-26°C and annual average rainfall of 400-750mm.

**Soil** Imported from nearby dry dam.

**Hardiness zone** USDA 10-11.







#### Facing page

The house and garden sit in the heart of Laikipia County one of Kenya's most beautiful and remote regions, where the wildly beautiful terrain ranges from semi-arid plains to forested hills and offers spectacular views.

#### This page

**Left** Plants from around the world come together in the courtyard, where familiar pennisetums and erigeron combine beautifully with a needle-leaved westringia, more commonly known as Australian rosemary.

**Below** The house is in an area of great environmental importance and a haven for wildlife, including elephants.

**Bottom** The white flowers of *Westringia fruticosa* and pale-blue South African native *Plumbago auriculata* shine out against a muted backdrop of grasses.



# WILD AT HEART

*High in the Kenyan Highlands, designer  
Jinny Blom has created a private  
garden that combines a calming courtyard  
with expanses of wild native grasses*

WORDS JODIE JONES PHOTOGRAPHS ANDREW MONTGOMERY







Just a few miles north of the equator, high in the Kenyan Highlands, lies Laikipia County a vast untouched expanse of prairie grass, acacia and wild olives. Herds of elephants roam freely and rare black rhinos are protected by the Borana Conservancy project, dedicated to combatting the poaching that has brought this species to the brink of extinction.

It is not the sort of place you'd expect a Chelsea Gold medal-winning designer to make a garden, but in November 2013 that was exactly the invitation received by Jinny Blom. "The client was building a family home with room for paying guests to generate income that could be reinvested in the Conservancy. That made it a very special project for me to be part of," says Jinny. "It didn't matter that I'd never designed a garden in Kenya before. I know a pyroclastic flow when I see one and the minute I spotted that solidified lava I began to get a sense of the soil. The native plants provided clues about what would grow, and talking to the locals I got a handle on the climate. Then I just went away and did a bit of research. The site did throw up some unforeseen problems – like the call we got from the surveyors, saying they'd had to evacuate the area because a bull elephant had appeared on site – but 90 per cent of any job I do is understanding people, what they want and how best to achieve that."

In this instance, Jinny's client was clear that the house should be invisible from the outside, which meant partially burying it. This produced a serious risk of ▶

**Above** The roofs were planted with wild African grasses native to the nearby hillsides.

**Right** In the courtyard, dead cedars have been left in situ for their structural impact while the recently planted *Vachellia xanthophloea* grow to sufficient stature.







THE NATIVE  
PLANTS PROVIDED  
CLUES ABOUT WHAT  
WOULD GROW





#### Facing page

Without doubt the focal plant on the swimming pool terrace is a venerable black olive that was carefully retained while the terrace was being constructed.

#### This page

**Above left** The planting areas on the swimming pool terrace were literally carved out of the smooth terrazzo and filled with various agapanthus and fragrant *Lavandula pinnata*.

**Above** Planting in the courtyard has matured with astonishing rapidity.

**Left** Viewed from the air, it becomes apparent how cleverly the house has been bedded into the landscape.

▷ flooding since, on the rare occasions when rain falls in Kenya, it does so in biblical quantities. “I became the drainage bore. From small details, such as cutting drainage channels down the outer edges of the courtyard steps, to sculpting the sloping land behind the building to help manage and modify the flow of water down the hill, it was my number one priority.”

Successful landforming can be a challenge even for the most experienced of contractors. Here Jinny was working with men from the local community and was also faced with barriers of language so she created a three-dimensional model to demonstrate the series of gently interlocking folds she wanted to impose on the hillside. “It was a brilliant communication tool,” says Jinny. “But it was still a massive job. Everything had to be dug, heaped and compacted by hand. Once each layer was 25cm deep we stretched sheets of jute fabric over the mounded earth to help stabilise it. We also put in tens of thousands of baby trees, which will further reinforce the ground in time.”

The broad concept was to create a heightened version of the surrounding land. “Outside the courtyard and swimming pool area I wouldn’t dream of using anything non-native, for fear it would escape into the wild. But for the garden proper we chose enhanced varieties to get the right effect.”

All of the rooms in the house open out on to an internal cloistered courtyard, where Jinny has created a garden that

combines elements of both a French monastery and Moorish paradise garden. Pale stone paths criss-cross the space and the air is cooled by water, in the form of one large pool and a series of giant pots filled with tiny, white water lilies, which rise out of a massed planting including pennisetum, westringia, rosemary and erigeron.

The garden was completed in 2015 and instantly looked effortlessly natural, but getting those plants into the ground was a massive undertaking. Each hole was made by a man hammering at the ground with a rebar for hours at a time and the soil was hand dug from a dry dam four miles away, then carried to site by 25 local women. It took ten days of non-stop work to fill and plant up the courtyard and Jinny, like everyone else, spent the entire time covered in fine, red dust.

“This was one of the physically hardest jobs I have ever done, but also one of the most satisfying,” says Jinny. “I am very proud of the garden we created, and for the part it will play in protecting a very special part of the world.” □

#### USEFUL INFORMATION

- To book a stay at the house visit [arijiju.com](http://arijiju.com) and to find out more about the work of the Borana Conservancy at [borana.co.ke](http://borana.co.ke)
- You can find out more about Jinny’s work at [jinnyblom.com](http://jinnyblom.com)



## *WILDLIFE GARDENING, KENYAN STYLE*

Arijju is sited in an area rich in native wildlife, which was a source of both joy and occasional headaches. Before landscaping could even begin, a 1.5km electric fence had to be erected around the outer perimeter, to allow the team to work in relative safety without worrying that a dangerous animal might suddenly appear. To avoid obstructing the stunning views from the house, instead of walls and fences Jinny installed a ha-ha around the outer terraces. "I sunk this to a depth that would stop even the most curious elephant clambering up, but the infinity swimming pool is on a slightly lower level so you do sometimes see a trunk waving up over the edge," says Jinny. "In general, of course, we wanted to encourage the wildlife into safe view, so we put in salt licks beyond the swimming pool boundary, and dug a watering hole that instantly attracted all sorts of wonderful animals. Even the water bowls in the courtyard were dive-bombed by giant dragonflies as soon as they were filled and swallows now nest in the cloisters. I think this garden really has contributed to its environment."







# LILIUM

*Mainly mountain bulbs, lilies are one of the oldest plants  
in cultivation, with colour, scale and scent*

WORDS PONTUS WALLSTÉN





### *Lilium* 'Black Beauty'

An almost indestructible hybrid with sturdy, bamboo-like stems that can hold more than 50 dark-purple flowers with a green-and-black centre. Each peduncle usually produces a secondary bud that opens once the first has finished so flowering lasts for almost two months. It was bred by crossing *L. speciosum* var. *rubrum* with *L. henryi* by Leslie Woodriff in 1957. 1.6m. USDA 3a-8b†.



**Pontus Wallstén** is a *Lilium* expert who runs the specialist nursery Pontus Wallstén Plants in the Swiss canton of Vaud.

By the wall of my house, is a small clump of bulbs that have flowered faithfully for the past nine years, filling the summer air with the sweet scent of jasmine, and requiring no particular effort on my part other than slug protection in spring and occasional watering in spring and summer. These remarkably unfussy bulbs are *Lilium regale*, a lily discovered in 1903 by the English explorer EH Wilson in the remote Min River valley in western Sichuan province, China.

Like the majority of the 113 or so existing *Lilium* species worldwide, *L. regale* is a mountain plant, found at altitudes of around 1,600m. All originate from the northern hemisphere and all, with a few exceptions, need a cold, dormant period. Most grow at altitudes of between 200m and 3,500m on well-draining mountain slopes, in part shade or full sun. In spring and summer, they usually get plenty of rain then spend cold winters covered in snow.

As a result, most lilies currently grown in cultivation are hardy plants, and there is no need to lift and store them over winter. Unlike tulips or narcissi, lily bulbs are composed of fleshy scales and have no protective tunic around the bulb, so if you were to dig up your bulbs and store them over winter, they would dry out and be dead by spring. Instead, you should ensure lily bulbs spend a bare minimum amount of time out of the ground. And so you don't accidentally break any emerging shoots while digging in early spring, it's a good idea to place a small stake or label next to your bulb when you plant them out in autumn.

Bulbs can vary widely in size and shape. A dwarf alpine species, such as *L. nanum*, will produce a bulb that is only 1-2cm across, while a well-established *L. regale* bulb can easily reach the size of a grapefruit. Lilies also vary in their ease of cultivation. Although all the species and hybrids featured here are widely available and easy to grow, with such a range of ▶

## PLANT PROFILE

**What** Bulbous perennial, hardy plants.

**Origins** Across the northern hemisphere – from the USA, Canada, through Europe to Russia and parts of Asia, including China, India and Korea – mostly in mountainous regions.

**Season** Late spring throughout summer and up until mid-late autumn by choosing a variety of species and cultivars.

**Size** *Lilium* range in height from 5cm to 2.5m, with a spread of 2-50cm depending on species or hybrid. Flowers can vary in size from 2cm to 25cm across.

**Conditions** Sun or light shade, depending on the species or hybrid, in well-drained, humus-rich soil.

**Warning** All parts of all *Lilium* are toxic to cats and can prove fatal.

\*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.

†Hardiness ratings given where available.



▷ existing species, some lilies are more difficult to cultivate than others and there are some that even the most knowledgeable nurserymen can have trouble keeping alive. These more difficult species are generally only available from very specialist nurseries and tend to be more expensive.

Lifespan is another variable factor. While my clump of *L. regale* is now in its tenth year, many species, such as *L. auratum*, *L. pumilum*, *L. speciosum* var. *rubrum* and *L. longiflorum*, will last on average for three to five years as individual bulbs, sometimes longer. Others, such as *L. regale* and *L. henryi* will last longer and lilies in cultivation generally last longer than in the wild.

There are exceptions: *L. martagon* can last 20-30 years if left undisturbed in optimum conditions and *L. 'Black Beauty'*, one of the most vigorous hybrids ever made, can stand untouched for decades in the same spot. However, those species with longer lifespans are also slow growing, taking at least ten years from seed to producing their first flower, and another five years to reach their full potential.

Lilies are also, unfortunately, prone to pests. Mice and other rodents love lily bulbs, especially the smaller ones, and if they are a problem the only solutions are either to line the bottom of a raised bed with chicken wire, or plant the bulbs in very large pots that you can plunge into the ground. You'll also need to protect plants from slugs in spring when the young shoots are emerging, and look out for the scarlet red lily beetle, whose larvae can cause so much damage to lilies. Lilies can wilt after high doses of chemical spraying, so I tend to pick off the beetles by hand in early spring. One final word of caution: all parts of all *Lilium*, even the water they're kept in, are toxic to cats and if ingested can prove fatal.

Caution aside, few genera of bulbous plants offer such variety in terms of flower shapes and sizes, fragrance, colour, height and flowering period. If you carefully pick your species and hybrids, you can have lilies in bloom in the garden from mid May until early November. With so much choice, surely there should be space for at least one lily bulb in every garden?

• Pontus's recommendations for lilies continue over the next six pages.



#### *Lilium regale*

Fragrant, large white trumpets with a pink reverse and yellow centre appear on vigorous stems with thin, dark-green leaves from June to July. Widely available and easy to grow. 1.5m. AGM\*. RHS H6, USDA 4a-8b.



#### *L. longiflorum*

Although known as the Easter lily, this fragrant species flowers in July. It's from Japan where it grows on coral rocks. Adapts to most well-drained, humus-rich soils in part shade or sun. 1.2m. AGM. RHS H3, USDA 4a-8b.



#### *L. martagon* var. *album*

Left undisturbed, this white variety can flower in May to June in the same location for decades. Needs a deep, well-drained, rich, sandy soil in part shade or full sun. 1.8m. RHS H6, USDA 3a-8b.



#### *L. speciosum* var. *rubrum* 'Uchida'

Flowers from mid August until well into September, making it valuable for extending the season, although it is not the most long-lived species. Needs a gritty, acid soil in part shade to do well. 1.5m. USDA 5a-6b.



**L. Pink Perfection Group**

A superb trumpet hybrid that produces big, highly fragrant flowers in July that vary in colour from pale to dark purple. It is very disease resistant and will thrive in any well-drained spot in full sun or afternoon shade with very little care. 1.8m. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 4a-9b.







**L. Golden Splendor Group**

A vigorous, fragrant, trumpet hybrid that was bred by Jan de Graaf in the USA in 1957. The yellow flowers have a darker, purple reverse, and are held on strong stems in July. Bulbs will eventually reach the size of a small melon. Plant 15-20cm deep. 1.5-2m. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 4a-8b.





BJORN HANSSON / GAP PHOTOS

#### ***L. auratum***

Originally from Japan, where it grows in acidic, volcanic soils, *L. auratum* produces some of the largest (20-25cm), most fragrant flowers of any lily, from July to August. Needs part shade or full sun. 1.5m. USDA 5a-8b.



HOWARD RICE / GAP PHOTOS

#### ***L. African Queen Group***

Fragrant, vivid-orange flowers in July. Very vigorous and long lived, it is happy in any well-drained, humus-rich spot in full sun or afternoon shade. 1.8m. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 4a-8b.



DEREK HARRIS / THE GARDEN COLLECTION / FP

#### ***L. tsingtauense***

From Qingdao, China, and Korea, this fragrant jewel will grow in part shade or full sun in any gritty, humus-rich soil. Best left undisturbed once settled as it can take a year to establish. Flowers in June. 1.5m.



RMFLORAL / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

#### ***L. henryi***

A vigorous and long-lived species, producing 40 flowers or more, July to August. Best in part shade as colour can fade in full sun. Stems can arch towards light, so may need staking. 2.5m. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 5a-8b.

## **When to plant bulbs**

Most *Lilium* species and hybrids can be planted any time from October to March. Bulbs that have been professionally cold stored, can be planted as late as mid May, and will flower about one to two months later than usual in their first year. *L. martagon* and *L. candidum* bulbs should be planted August to September, before they begin making new roots.

When choosing bulbs look out for ones that are firm, and as large as possible. Avoid any bulbs with dry scales, and try to avoid bulbs with traces of mould or rot. If you buy any hybrid lily bulbs that seem a bit soft, you can plunge them into cold water for 20 minutes before planting, to rehydrate them, but this is a last resort to rescue poorer-quality bulbs.

Ideally choose bulbs from specialist growers. Those sold in garden centres are often not cold stored in moist peat. Instead they are stored either in bags of wood shavings or simply laid out in crates, which means they are at high risk of drying out. If you do buy from a garden centre, try to find out exactly when it is due to receive its lily bulb deliveries so you can buy within days of their arrival.

Plant bulbs as soon as you've bought them. If that's not possible, store them in bags of moist peat in the fridge.

## **Cultivation**

Most lilies provide vital stem roots on the underground part of the stem, which feed the flower stem and help anchor it in the ground. It is therefore important to plant your lilies with at least 10cm of soil above the bulb. Some very strong stem rooters, such as *L. regale*, *L. henryi*, *L. sargentiae*, *L. 'Black Beauty'* and *L. African Queen Group*, will need at least 15-20cm of soil above the bulb.

As a general rule lilies prefer well-drained and humus-rich, woodland type soil, with a lot of organic matter. Lilies do not like to sit in cold water in winter, so if your soil is clay based or not very well drained, a good option is to grow your lilies in raised beds. Some species grow best in part shade while others, such as *L. regale*, need full sun. When grown in sun, all lilies benefit



from a good mulch of wood chippings or some ground covering perennials or annuals to keep their roots shaded and cold in summer.

## Propagation

You can also raise your own lily bulbs from seed, but you will need patience, as the average lily takes three to five years from seed in optimum conditions before flowering, and some species are harder to germinate and grow than others. Luckily, many lilies will increase by natural division of the bulbs in time, as well as by producing small bulbs along the underground part of the stem. So, if a lily is thriving, in a few years, you can end up with a nice clump, that can be divided in November, when dormant.

## Further reading

*The Lily Species and Their Bulbs* by Pontus Wallstén (45 CHF), available from [pontus.wallsten@bluewin.ch](mailto:pontus.wallsten@bluewin.ch)

*RHS Wisley Handbook: Lilies* by Michael Jefferson-Brown (Quadrille Publishing, 2003).

## Where to buy

- **Harts Nursery**  
Childs Lane, Brownlow, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 4TG.  
Tel 01270 485379,  
[hartsnursery.co.uk](http://hartsnursery.co.uk)  
By appointment only.
- **HW Hyde & Son**  
The Nursery, New Road, Ruscombe, Twyford, Berkshire RG10 9LN.  
Tel 07557 530845, [hwhyde.co.uk](http://hwhyde.co.uk)  
By appointment only.
- **Pitcairn Alpines**  
Pitcairn Alpines, Scotts Park, Pitcairngreen, Perth PH1 3LT.  
Tel 01738 583213,  
[pitcairnalpines.co.uk](http://pitcairnalpines.co.uk)  
By appointment only.
- **Pontus Wallstén Plants**  
9 Ruelle des jardins, 1166 Perroy, VD, Switzerland.  
[pontuswallstenplants.smugmug.com](http://pontuswallstenplants.smugmug.com)  
By appointment only.

## Reader offer

Readers can enjoy a 10 per cent discount on a specially chosen lily collection from HW Hyde & Son. See page 105 for details.



GARDEN WORLD IMAGES LTD / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

### *L. nepalense*

A stoloniferous species that grows in the wild at altitudes of up to 3,500m. Likes part shade in acid or slightly alkaline soil and resents drying out. Its huge, fragrant flowers change scent at night. 90cm. RHS H3, USDA 8b-10b.



ANDREW LAWSON / THE GARDEN COLLECTION / FP

### *L. duchartrei*

Originally from China, this stoloniferous species grows at high altitudes in the wild, in gritty areas on well-drained, humus-rich slopes. Lightly fragrant. Plant 10cm deep, in sun or part shade. 1.2m. USDA 8b-10b.



CHRISTOPHER BURROWS / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

### *L. pumilum*

Often referred to as the coral lily, this little gem from east Asia is usually one of the first species to flower in May. Likes a well-drained spot in full sun, so ideal as a rockery plant. Has a spicy fragrance. 60cm. USDA 3a-7b.



JO WHITWORTH / GAP PHOTOS

### *L. 'Casa Blanca'*

A fabulously fragrant, oriental hybrid that needs acidic peaty soil. Although not long-lived, it will make large bulbs and strong stems in time. Plant at least 15-20cm deep. 1.3m. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 5a-8b.





*L. pardalinum*

A moisture-loving species from California and Oregon, USA, that is easy to grow. It can also be extremely long lived (ten years or more) and needs little care. If you make sure the clumpy, sub-rhizomatous bulbs don't dry out in summer, they will quickly establish a nice colony in a peaty humus-rich spot. Known as the panther lily for its black-spotted, red and yellow flowers. 1.7m. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 5a-9a.



HORTICULTURAL WHO'S WHO

# ADAM FROST

The *Gardeners' World* presenter and seven times Chelsea Gold medallist on working with Geoff Hamilton, laver and bacon sandwiches and why he won't be giving up coaching junior goalkeepers

WORDS JODIE JONES PORTRAIT CHARLIE HOPKINSON

C hampagne problems. That's what I've got," says Adam Frost. The *Gardeners' World* presenter, RHS Ambassador and Chelsea Gold medal-winning designer has a lot on his plate. It adds a little extra sparkle to the situation that his problems are, in the very best sense, of his own making.

Growing up in north London, home life wasn't always easy for young Adam, and he spent a lot of time with his grandparents. "There was Tidy Nan, with a greenhouse that smelt of tomatoes, Scruffy Nan – who worked in the City and had a garden full of Belfast sinks and cats – and Granddad, who was an engineer and had the best shed in the world."

When he wasn't with his grandparents Adam was playing football, and showed such talent in goal that there was a real chance he would turn professional. Instead, when he was 15, his father uprooted him and moved to rural north Devon.

"It did knock me sideways a bit," he admits. In quick succession, he left school, rented a room and signed up as an apprentice with the North Devon Parks Department. "I think the old boys were sorry for me. There was George, the foreman, who taught me a lot, and Jim who introduced me to the joy of laver and bacon sandwiches, and gave me a couple of canaries that I kept at the end of my bed. The first time I appeared on *Gardeners' World*, George emailed to say how proud he was."

Every Friday Adam spent four hours travelling by bike and bus to and from Bicton College to study for his diploma. "It was the first time I'd got an A for anything and it was a great feeling.

"Then, when I was 19, and old enough to live properly on my own, I headed back to London to look for landscaping work." He got a job with a small firm and a place in the Hatfield Town football team and life jogged along until 1990, when he saw an advertisement in a trade paper for a position with a 'TV garden in Rutland'.

The garden belonged to Geoff Hamilton, then the main presenter on *Gardeners' World*, and Adam got the job. "I walked into Barnsdale and it blew my mind. I thought I knew a bit about plants until then. Geoff was the first person I ever put on a pedestal and the time I spent working for him was the making of me."

He built the small themed television gardens that Geoff created at Barnsdale. "But then I started meeting all these designers who showed up and it really excited me. Geoff was amazingly supportive when he realised how interested I was, and sent me to train with that great designer David Stevens."

Working at Barnsdale, studying with David – and with a baby on the way – life was looking good for Adam until August 1996, when Geoff's shockingly unexpected death threw everything up into the air. "My job went with Geoff and I had to be earning, so I began landscaping on my own," he says.

Fortunately David Stevens began sending work his way, and the business grew rapidly to employ 20 staff. In his spare time, Adam gave talks to gardening societies and was appointed chairman of the Association of Professional Landscapers. "People have helped me in this business, so I've always tried to give a bit back," he says.

Then, in 2005, Adam found himself at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, working again with David Stevens on a garden designed by Terence Conran. "Looking back, it was a brilliant experience. They encouraged me to trust my own abilities, which gave me the nerve to take a risk and design a Chelsea garden myself. I got an £18,000 retainer for a big landscaping job and I spent the lot entering the 2007 show."

It was a massive gamble, which paid off when he won Gold. The following year, he was back again. Contracted to build a garden on Main Avenue, he used the fee to fund a small garden of his own design and this time he bagged both Gold and Best Urban Garden.

In all, Adam has won seven Chelsea Golds and it was talking about those gardens that first put him in front of a television camera, although he didn't much enjoy it. "Geoff was so brilliant and I didn't think I could be." In fact, he

turned out to be a natural, and won a Best Newcomer award from the Royal Television Society. Since then he's become a regular presenter on *Gardeners' World* and talks to the camera "like I'm chatting to someone in the pub".

He doesn't do much landscaping any more, but has a successful garden design practice. Two years ago, he moved into a house in Lincolnshire where, with his wife Sulina and four children, he's developing the gardens and runs a thriving gardening school. "The only downside is I'm going to have to start saying no to things."

It's hard to imagine Adam turning anything down, but he definitely won't be giving up his Thursday nights. That's when he coaches junior goalkeepers. They are in safe hands. □

I GOT AN £18,000  
RETAINER FOR A BIG  
LANDSCAPING JOB  
AND SPENT THE LOT  
ENTERING THE 2007  
CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

## USEFUL INFORMATION

The Adam Frost Garden School is offering a range of masterclasses and courses on garden and planting design in 2018: [adamfrost.co.uk](http://adamfrost.co.uk)  
**NEXT MONTH** Paul Barney, founder of specialist plant nursery Eduliss.









### In brief

Name Le Jardin Secret.  
What Contrasting courtyard gardens.  
Where Marrakech, Morocco.  
Size One acre.  
Soil Light and loamy.  
Climate Sizzling hot summers (regularly 50°C), low rainfall, sheltered.  
Hardiness zone USDA 10.



# URBAN OASIS

*In a space once hidden from the public, Le Jardin Secret, in Marrakech, has been transformed by Tom Stuart-Smith into two distinctive tranquil gardens*

WORDS TIM RICHARDSON PHOTOGRAPHS CLAIRE TAKACS



Le Jardin Secret opened to the public in 2016, with a design by Tom Stuart-Smith that comprises two complementary spaces: the traditional cruciform Islamic garden (foreground) and smaller exotic garden beyond.



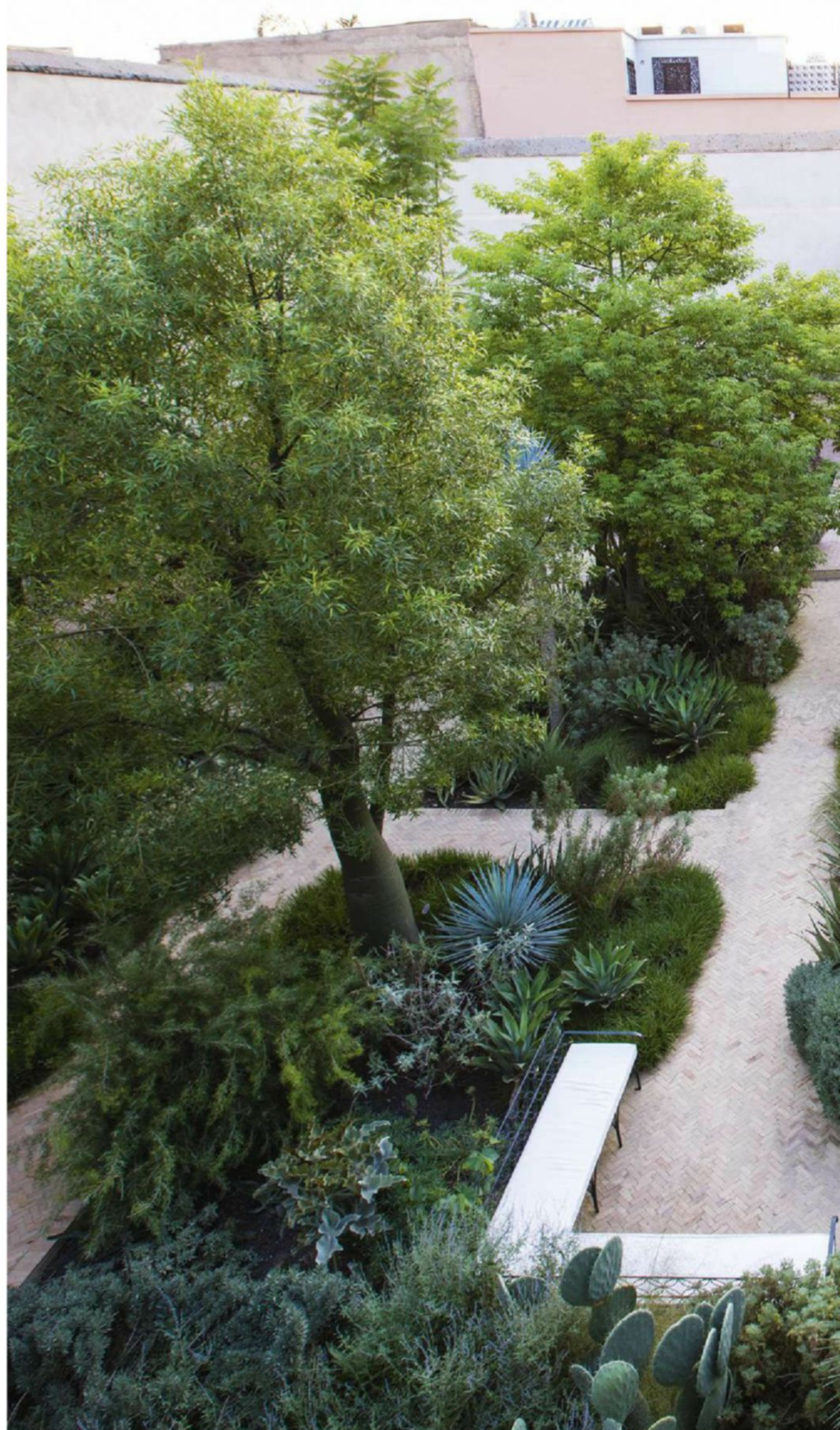
The *medina* or old walled city in Marrakech, Morocco, must be one of the most atmospheric urban environments anywhere, so it's not surprising that Tom Stuart-Smith jumped at the opportunity when he was asked to create a large new garden on an historic site in the heart of this maze of streets and bazaars. Le Jardin Secret is made up of a pair of courtyard gardens that originally belonged to separate properties. Restored using private money, it opened daily to the public in 2016.

It is hard to believe that these immaculately maintained courtyards were, in 2000, unrecognisable as gardens: the entire space was covered in rubble, rubbish and a variety of small dwellings, reflecting the fact that the land was owned by more than 130 people. Over an eight-year period, the new owners gradually bought up the site and in 2013, the restoration began. Tom's idea was to create contrasting garden spaces: the first, a cruciform along traditional Islamic lines, using only plants mentioned in the Quran; the second, a more ambitious horticultural mix, using plants from all over the world.

Originally, the larger Islamic garden had been the centrepiece of one of the most important houses in the city, thought to date back to the late 16th century, while the exotic garden had belonged to a smaller adjacent property. Both were *riads*, meaning 'house with garden' in Arabic. There is no clear distinction, traditionally, between indoors and outdoors in a *riad*: most of the pavilions and buildings that surrounded the courtyard were left open-sided and windowless to admit breezes in the warmer months. The coolness and tranquillity offered by the water-refreshed garden still provides a remarkable contrast with the heat and noise of the *souk*, just a few metres away on the other side of the high walls.

The visitor enters Le Jardin Secret via a new entrance building in traditional style, and emerges into the smaller exotic garden. "It draws on the idea, more Christian than Islamic, that a garden could be representative of the Garden of Eden, having plants grown in it from all over the world," Tom explains. The restoration revealed that the original path and water-rill layout was still intact and discernible across the site, since the makeshift structures added in the late 20th century had simply been built on top. The central rill, running west to east, was restored, as was a slightly raised perimeter walkway. Intensively planted beds in irregular rectangles were recreated on either side of the rill [see box right for planting details]. Originally these beds were a metre below the level of the path, but for safety, that has been reduced to 20cm.

When I visited the garden with Tom, he was amazed and delighted by how much the plants had grown in a season. Two existing mature date palms had been retained but other mature trees – jacaranda, the ►



**Right** The exotic garden contains plants drawn from the four corners of the earth, in the spirit of the Garden of Eden. The central rill and sunken planting beds were excavated as part of the restoration of an earlier garden structure.



IN A *RIAD* THERE IS NO CLEAR  
DISTINCTION BETWEEN  
INDOORS AND OUTDOORS

### Planting in the exotic garden

Much of the pleasure in this garden derives from carefully engineered contrasts – for example between floppy *Kalanchoe*, cactus-like *Euphorbia ingens* and *Agave attenuata*, and the spiky crowns of *Yucca rostrata*. The serrated leaves and greyish tone of *Melianthus major* plays off the foliage of various euphorbia species, including *E. dendroides* and *E. tirucalli*. But this is not a jungle – each plant is given its space. Most plants grow to head height and no higher, so that the underlying garden structure remains apparent throughout. A large specimen of *Jacaranda mimosifolia* forms a centrepiece.

At a lower level, a wide range of succulents and bromeliads, including six species of aloe, contrast with grasses such as *Pennisetum villosum*, soft mounds of sage, and the sea lavender *Limonium perezii*. The evening garden is perfumed with the night-scented jasmine, *Jasminum azoricum*.





▷ *Delonix regia* from Madagascar and *Ceiba speciosa* from South America – were taken into the garden at night, to avoid traffic problems. (Trucks were used at first but, after several ‘mishaps’, the team reverted to donkey power.) Tom’s chief instruction to the local gardeners – whom he says are excellent – is to try to retain the clarity of his plant groupings, so the garden does not become a horticultural free-for-all. The plan is also to leave the red walls (evocatively known as ‘blood of the antelope’) unclothed, to emphasise the sense of enclosure.

The transition between the two garden spaces was handled in traditional manner by Tom, by means of a tiled pavilion. The contrast as one emerges into the Islamic garden is dramatic, as the space opens up to reveal a traditional gridded orchard of citrus trees. As the ground surface changes from pink brick to emerald tiles, it feels like walking into the sea.

Tom has recreated a four-fold garden around a central fountain, each quarter with its own smaller fountain fed by rills and the walkways edged by clipped rosemary hedges. A tower looks down over the garden from the northwest corner, while dignified pavilions mark the eastern and western ends of the central rill. As Tom points out, this is a style of garden almost unaltered in Morocco since the 1300s: “The most interesting thing is that it’s a religious garden, which requires total suppression of ego. There’s nothing about me in it at all.”

The selection and spacing of the fruit trees is based on the 12th-century royal gardens of the Agdal in Marrakech: the outer rows are mostly olive, the inner rows mainly citrus, with date palms, pomegranates, argans (grown for nuts) and cypress trees at irregular intervals. This relaxation of structural formality is common in traditional Moroccan gardens. The only area where Tom has significantly departed from historical precedent is in the use of shrubs and herbaceous planting beneath the trees – which includes the grass *Stipa tenuissima*, native Moroccan lavender and *Tulbaghia* (society garlic). Tom says this plant mix is intended as an evocation of the Persian idea of the *bustan*, or scented orchard garden. Originally, the ground plane of such a garden would have been simply swept earth with various herbs, some of them potted. Tom says he wants to introduce more native Moroccan herbs, with the help of local botanists.

An evocative experience on an impressive scale, Le Jardin Secret now vies with the celebrated Yves Saint Laurent garden as a horticultural must-see in Marrakech. □

#### USEFUL INFORMATION

- Learn more about the garden at [lejardinsecretmarrakech.com](http://lejardinsecretmarrakech.com)
- Find out more about Tom’s work at [tomstuartsmith.co.uk](http://tomstuartsmith.co.uk)

Turn the page for 24 plant recommendations

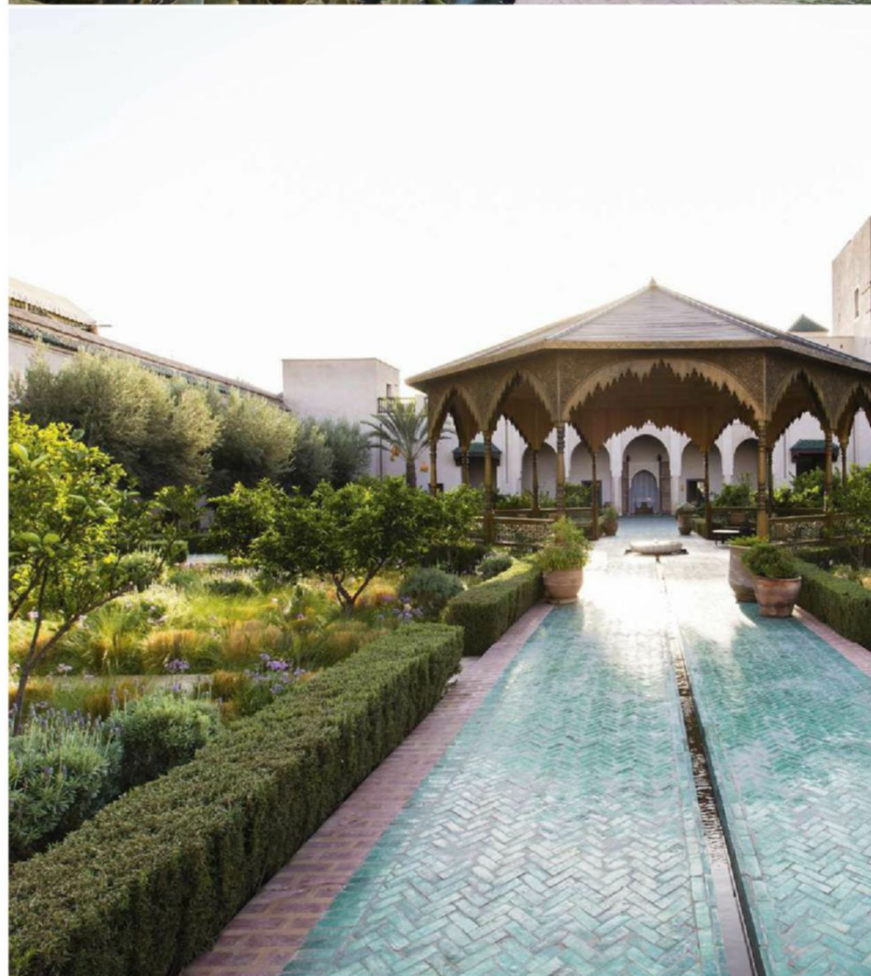
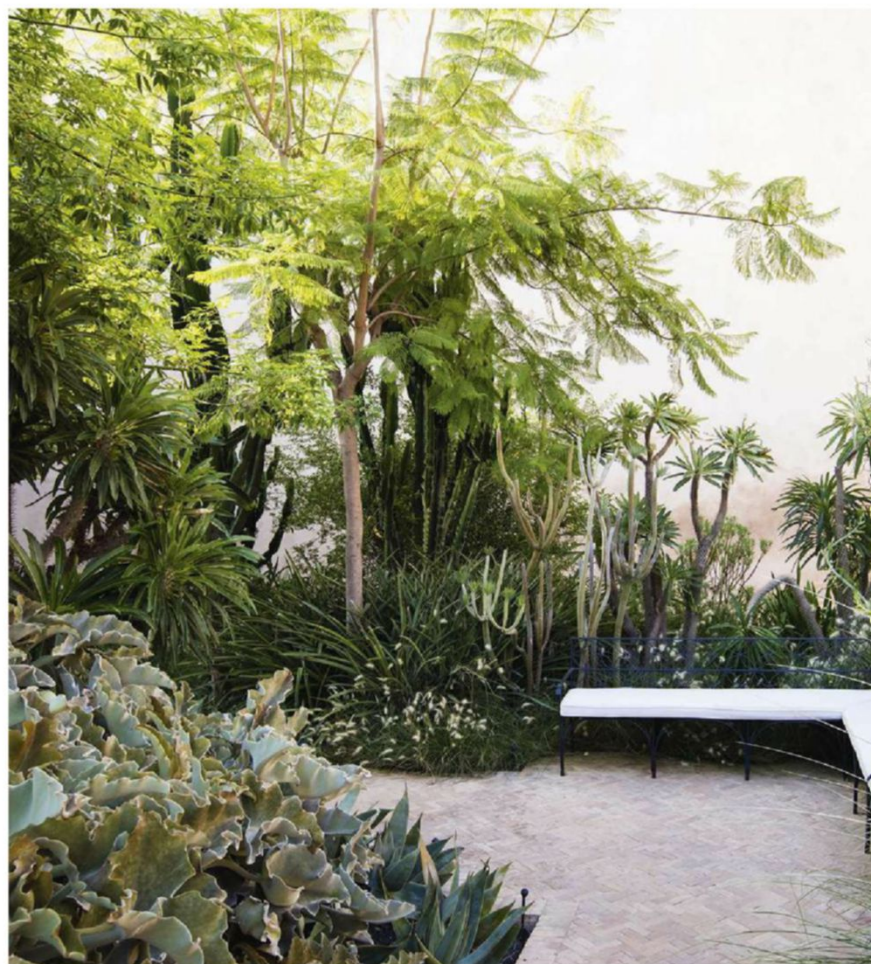
#### Clockwise from top left

**A tranquil corner** of the exotic garden shaded by the fern-like leaves of a jacaranda. The benches create a contemporary note amid the palms and succulents.

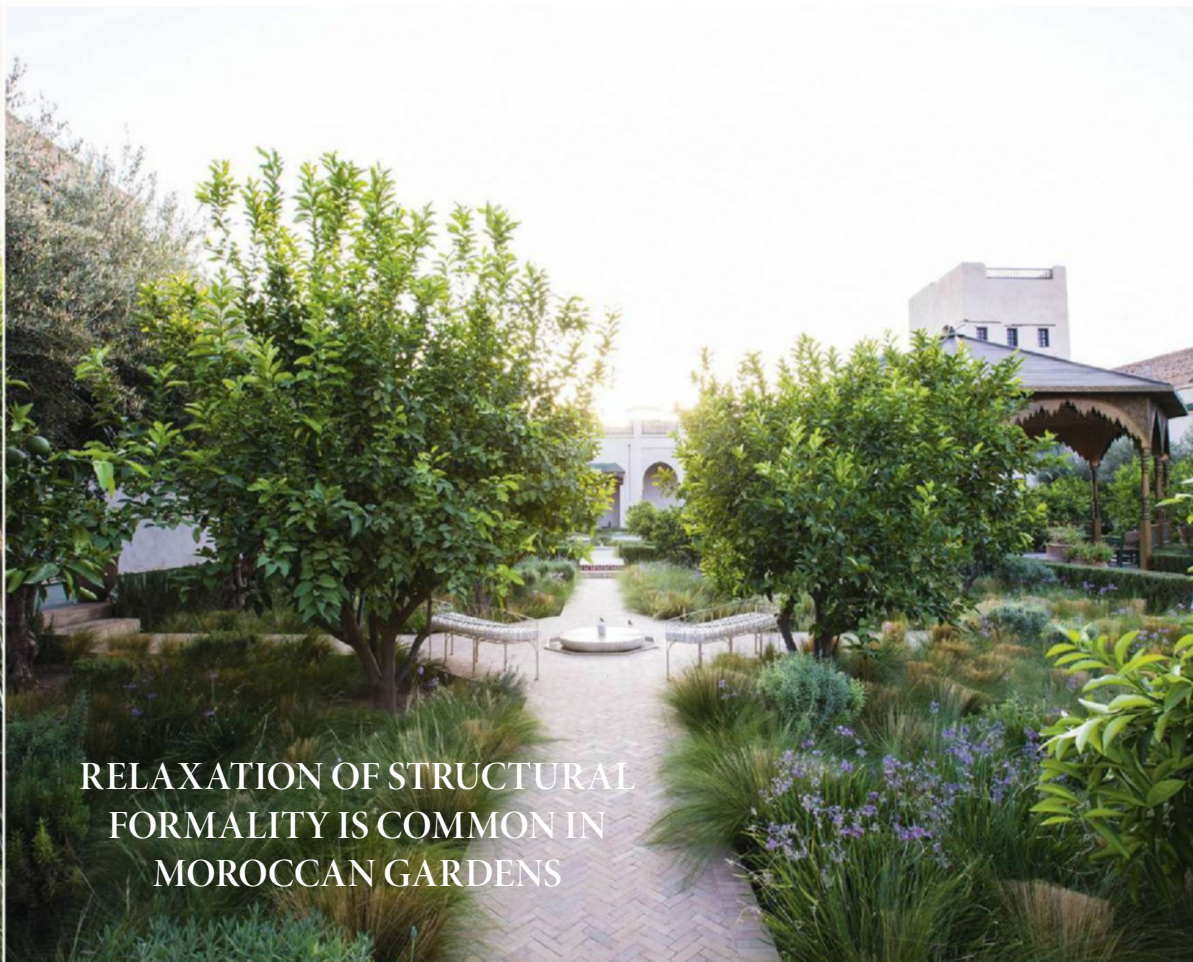
**In the Islamic garden**, rows of citrus trees help create the effect of the *bustan*, or scented orchard garden, with grass invoked by *Stipa tenuissima*.

**One of the first sights** to greet the visitor is the bottle-shaped trunk of *Ceiba speciosa*, offsetting the distinctive rounded forms of the prickly pear cactus.

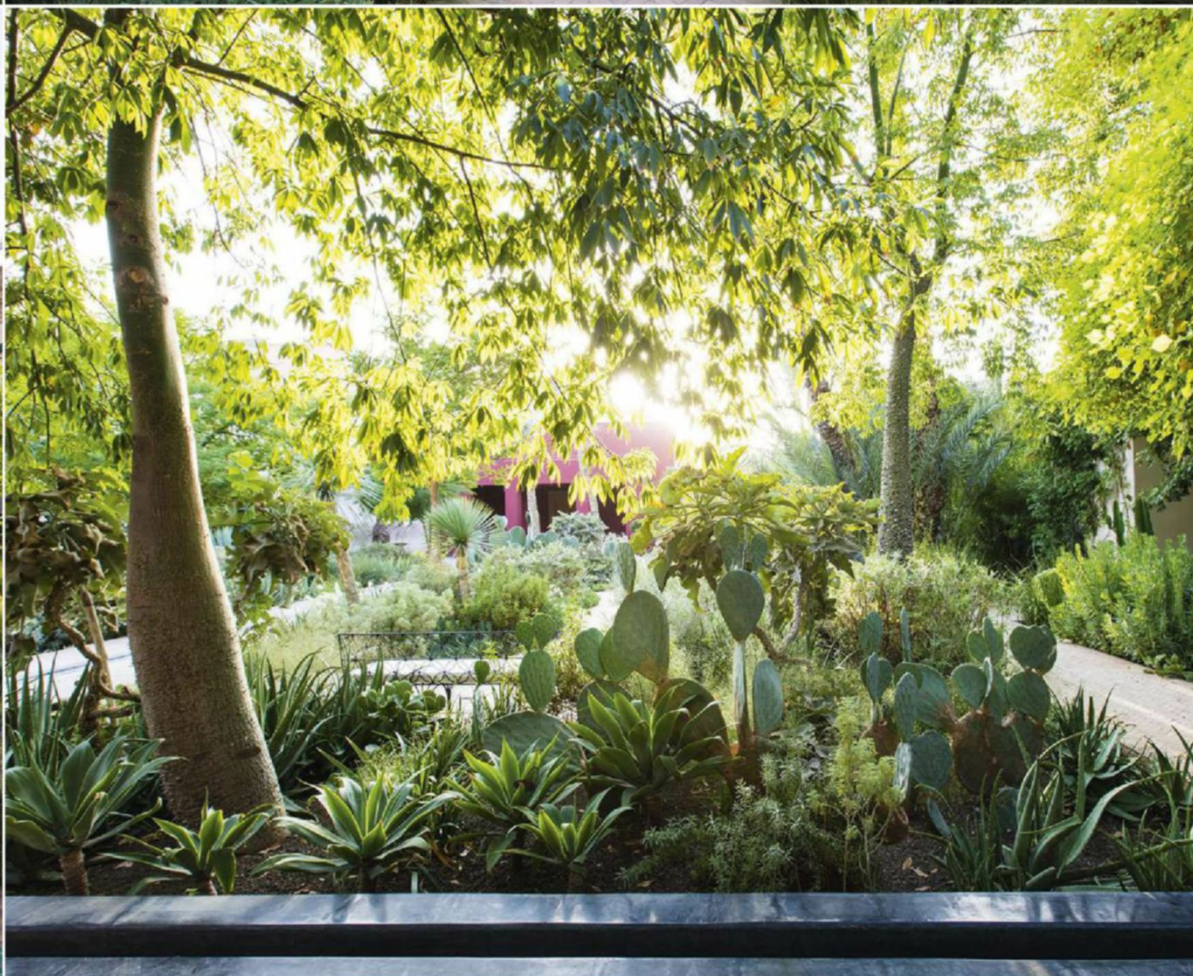
**The central rill** and pathway of the Islamic garden, lined with clipped rosemary hedges. The central canopied structure is a recent addition by the owners to use during events.







RELAXATION OF STRUCTURAL  
FORMALITY IS COMMON IN  
MOROCCAN GARDENS







EVA VERMANDEL

## 24 OF TOM'S KEY PLANTS FROM LE JARDIN SECRET

### 1 *Pachypodium lamerei*

A strong-growing Madagascan succulent with vicious spiky stems, topped with lush verdant leaves and white flowers. 4m. AGM\*. RHS H1A, USDA 9a-11†.

### 2 *Aloe striata*

One of a number of aloes used in the garden. This one has coral-red flowers and a slightly tinged edge to the leaf.

1m. RHS H1B, USDA 9b-11.

### 3 *Rosmarinus officinalis*

Rosemary is clipped loosely as an edging plant in the Islamic garden.

1.5m. RHS H4, USDA 8a-10b.

### 4 *Stipa tenuissima*

A soft, easy, drought-tolerant grass grown beneath the citrus trees. Cut hard back to its base twice a year.

1m. RHS H4, USDA 7a-9b.

### 5 *Euphorbia tirucalli*

Also known as the pencil tree, this strange succulent has gangly, cylindrical branches. 5m. USDA 10a-11.

### 6 *Ceiba speciosa*

The silk floss tree has a bulbous trunk, barbed with large thorns, and beautiful pink flowers. 15m. USDA 9a-11.

### 7 *Puya mirabilis*

Bromeliad with rosette of spiky foliage, and pale-green flowers. Native to Argentina and Bolivia. 90cm. USDA 9a-11.

### 8 *Thevetia peruviana*

Small evergreen tree with yellow flowers, native to Central and South America. 5m. USDA 10a-11.

### 9 *Bulbine latifolia*

South African native similar in habit to an aloe. Smooth-edged leaves with elongated racemes, which have small, yellow flowers. 30cm. USDA 9b-11.

### 10 *Kleinia neriifolia*

Carnation tree native to the Canary Islands. 1.8m.

### 11 *Furcraea macedougallii*

Mexican rosette-forming succulent growing up to 6m. USDA 9b-10b.

### 12 *Jasminum azoricum*

Jasmine with fragrant evening flowers. 3m. AGM. RHS H2, USDA 10a-11







### 13 *Euphorbia ingens*

Known as the Candelabra tree this columnar succulent has already shot up to almost five metres in the garden. Spines run down the ridges of the segmented branches. 12m.

### 14 *Yucca rostrata*

Slow-growing yucca from southern USA and northern Mexico. 4m. RHS H5, USDA 7a-10b.

### 15 *Salvia canariensis*

Tender perennial shrub, native to the Canary Islands. Long, white-furred stems are topped with purplish flowers. 3m. USDA 9a-10b.

### 16 *Eragrostis trichodes*

One of a number of drought-tolerant grasses used in the garden. Native to the USA. 1.5m. RHS H4, USDA 4b-10b.

### 17 *Pennisetum villosum*

Commonly named feathertop, thanks to its fluffy, caterpillar-like panicles. 50cm. AGM. RHS H3, USDA 8a-10b.

### 18 *Aloe vera*

Has fleshy, spiny leaves and tubular, yellow flowers atop 90cm spikes. 1m. AGM. RHS H1C, USDA 9a-11.

### 19 *Senecio mandraliscae*

A useful bluey-grey ground-cover plant from South Africa that tolerates some shade. 60cm. USDA 10a-11.

### 20 *Opuntia robusta*

The giant prickly pear is unlike anything else in the garden, with disc-like, silvery-blue, thorny pads. 4m. USDA 9a-10b.

### 21 *Perovskia 'Blue Spire'*

Russian sage tends to flop a bit in the Marrakech climate, but it is a good foil to the glaucous, spiky foliage in the garden. 1.5m. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 5a-10b.

### 22 *Ruellia simplex 'Chi Chi'*

The wild petunia produces a delicate flower, which seeds itself lightly through other planting in the garden. 30cm. USDA 8a-10b.

### 23 *Kleinia anteuphorbium*

A Moroccan native with snaking stalks that has done so well, Tom has had to remove large chunks to curtail its spread. 60cm. USDA 10a-11.

### 24 *Kalanchoe beharensis*

One of the most striking plants in the garden with blue-grey leaves attached to thick, twisting stems. 1m. AGM. RHS H1B, USDA 10a-11.





## ENCEPHALARTOS WOODII

David Cooke  
Glasshouse manager

“This cycad is key to our collection here at the Temperate House. Named after Victorian plant hunter John Medley Wood, *Encephalartos woodii* first came to Kew as a small offset in 1899 and this is now the only remaining specimen in Europe. No plants remain in the wild (its native home is the oNgoye Forest of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa) and of those growing in collections, all are males – no female *E. woodii* has ever been found. This makes it one of the rarest plants in the world. It took four people, a gantry crane and a fork-lift truck to dig it up when the glasshouse restoration project began in 2013. We replanted it in its new home back in October 2017 and it’s hanging on in there – it’s one of the plants we look after on a daily basis. For me it represents the essential work we do at Kew ensuring the conservation of some of the rarest and most-threatened plants in the world – they may not all be pretty plants you’d want to grow in your garden, but we’re keeping plant biodiversity alive for the future.”





# PLANT HEROES

As the restoration project for the Temperate House at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew draws to a five-year conclusion, the horticultural team are preparing to rehouse their botanical treasures in readiness for the reopening of this impressive Victorian glasshouse in May. We asked four members of the team to choose the plant that sums up what the restoration means to Kew – and the wider botanical world

WORDS SORREL EVERTON PHOTOGRAPHS ANDREW MONTGOMERY

## *BANKSIA SERRATA*

Richard Barley

Director of horticulture

“*Banksia serrata* takes us right back to Kew’s origins and the connections with Joseph Banks, the celebrated 18th-century botanist who journeyed with Captain Cook on his first voyage around the world, collecting thousands of botanical specimens. On his return to England he became something of an unofficial director at Kew, advising King George III on what to include in his collection. *Banksia serrata* was first recorded by Banks in 1770, having been found at Botany Bay, on Australia’s east coast, where HMS *Endeavour*’s crew first made landfall. Live specimens of the plant were brought back to Kew in 1780 and since then there has always been a *Banksia serrata* here. The plant I’m holding here will be planted within the Australasia zone and be just one of the 1,500 species to be replanted within the cathedral-like space of the Temperate House. Every one of these plants has a fascinating story to tell and it is the *Banksia* that marks Joseph Banks’s pivotal role in Britain’s long horticultural history.”



## BRUNFELSIA PAUCIFLORA

Hannah Button

Project horticulturist

“The common name for the tropical *Brunfelsia pauciflora* is the yesterday-today-and-tomorrow plant because it flowers profusely in a three-day process with blooms changing colour from dark purple, mauve to white. It’s quite easy to grow in a pot in a conservatory and always gets comments from visitors. For me, it perfectly represents this project because it’s Kew’s role to carry on in the footsteps of the great Victorian gardeners of yesterday who built the Temperate House; there’s the extensive restoration coming to a conclusion now; and then there’s the continuation of the botanical work we will be ensuring for tomorrow’s generations. We’ve taken 500 plants out of the Temperate House and for the past five years have been transplanting, propagating and cloning the collection ready to go back in. Part of my role has been to care for the plants. We have a 90 per cent success criteria, with every plant having a back up. We’ll be replanting some 10,000 plants and will include lots of interpretation boards so that visitors understand the importance of every plant.”







## *JUBAEA CHILENSIS*

Scott Taylor

Horticultural supervisor

“The original Chilean wine palm in the Temperate House was grown from seed in 1846. It was an emotional decision to make to chop it down when we came to remove the plants, but it was beginning to senesce and this replacement is one of its progeny we’ve been growing in the background for 16 years. In fact we’ve successfully grown so many new palms from seed produced by that original palm that there are dozens of its progeny distributed in other collections. Darwin labelled *Jubaea chilensis* a ‘very ugly tree’ but in another 100 years or so, this palm will be big, reaching towards the roof of this 19m-tall glasshouse – and so its story will continue. We’ve inherited people’s past visions and countless generations will inherit what we’re doing now. We replanted this palm just yesterday. Prior to its arrival we moved in 1,300 cubic metres of new soil; it hadn’t been changed since the 19th-century. We’re today’s custodians – we won’t be around to see it mature, but we’re making sure that others will.”

• The Temperate House will reopen in early May. Find details at [kew.org](http://kew.org)





# EVENTS AND SHOWS 2018

If you can tear yourself away from your own garden, there are countless garden shows and festivals awaiting this year. We list some of the best sources of plant and design inspiration, both in the UK and abroad

COMPILED BY ALYS HURN



## APRIL

### 27 April – 28 October Radicepura

#### Garden Festival, Sicily

Biennial, international event dedicated to garden design. Botanica Srl, Strada 17, N.19, Franzione di San Leonardello 95014 Giarre, Catania. Tel +39 095964154, radicepurafestival.com

### 6-8 Fête des Plantes de Printemps,

#### Château de Saint-Jean de

#### Beauregard, France

Plants from Europe's finest nurseries. Château de Saint-Jean de Beauregard, Rue du Château, 91940 Saint-Jean de Beauregard. Tel +33 (0)160 12 00 01, chateaudesaintjeandebeauregard.com

### 7-8 Great Dixter Spring Plant Fair, UK

Specialist nurseries and seasonal plants. 11am-4pm. Admission with garden entry ticket £10.45. Great Dixter, Northiam, Rye, East Sussex TN31 6PH. Tel 01797 254048, greatdixter.co.uk

### 13-15 Ascot Spring Garden Show, UK

New garden show. 10am-6pm. From £16. Ascot Racecourse, Ascot, Berkshire SL5 7JX. Tel 0844 346 3000, ascot.co.uk

### 13-15 RHS Cardiff Flower Show, UK

Regional nurseries. 10am-5.30pm. From £11. Bute Park, Cardiff Castle, Cardiff CF10 1BJ. Tel 0844 995 9664, rhs.org.uk

### 26-29 Harrogate Spring Flower Show, UK

Celebrating spring planting. 9.30am-5.30pm. From £18.50. Regional Agricultural Centre, Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 8NZ. Tel 01423 546157, flowershow.org.uk

### 27-28 Toby Buckland's Garden Festival, UK

Quality plants from first-rate nurseries. 10am-5pm. From £8.50. Powderham Castle, Kenton, Exeter, Devon EX6 8JQ. Tel 01626 890243, powderham.co.uk

## MAY

### 10-13 RHS Malvern Spring Festival, UK

Show gardens and plants. 9am-6pm. From £18. Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire WR13 6NW. Tel 0844 995 9664, rhs.org.uk

### 11-13 Beervelde Garden Days, Belgium

Plants and artisan craft items. 10am-6pm. From €10. Beervelde Parc, Beervelde-Dorp 75, 9080 Beervelde. Tel +32 (0)9 356 81 82, parkvanbeervelde.be

### 18-20 Les Journées des Plantes, France

France's premier event. 10am-6pm. From €17. Domaine de Chantilly, 7 Rue du

Connétable, 60500 Chantilly. Tel +33 (0)344 27 31 80, domainedechantilly.com

### 22-26 RHS Chelsea Flower Show, UK

The UK's leading horticultural show, featuring gardens from leading designers. 8am-8pm. From £37. London Gate, Royal Hospital Road, Royal Hospital Chelsea, London SW3 4SR. Tel 0844 995 9664, rhs.org.uk

## JUNE

### 31 May – 4 June Bloom, Ireland

Ireland's largest garden festival, with show gardens from top designers. 9am-6pm. From €16. Phoenix Park, Dublin. Tel +353 (0)1 295 8181, bloominthepark.com

### 1-3 Gardening Scotland, UK

Garden inspiration and Scottish nurseries. 10am-5pm. From £14. The Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston, Edinburgh EH28 8NB. Tel 0131 333 0965, gardeningscotland.com

### 6-10 RHS Chatsworth Flower Show, UK

The latest RHS flower show, now in its second year. 10am-6.30pm. From £22.50. Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1PP. Tel 0844 995 9664, rhs.org.uk

### 15-17 Bingerden International Specialist Nursery Days, the Netherlands

International nurseries. 10am-6pm. €14. Huis Bingerden, Bingerdeweg 21, 6986 CE Angerlo. Tel +31 (0)313 48 42 38, bingerden.com

### 22-24 Blenheim Palace Flower Show, UK

Garden, home and lifestyle inspiration. 10am-5pm. Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Oxfordshire OX20 1PP. Tel 01993 810530, blenheimflowershow.co.uk

### 22-24 RHS Harlow Carr Flower Show, UK

Plant sales and sundries. 9.30am-6pm. Admission with garden entry £11. RHS Garden Harlow Carr, Crag Lane, Beckwithshaw, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG3 1QB. Tel 01423 565418, rhs.org.uk

### 23-24 Woburn Abbey Garden Show, UK

Talks and demonstrations, plus award-winning nurseries. 10am-6pm. £14. Woburn Abbey and Gardens, Woburn, Bedfordshire MK17 9WA. Tel 01525 290333, woburnabbey.co.uk

## JULY

### 2-8 RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, UK

Show gardens and plants. 10am-7.30pm (5.30pm Sunday). From £22. Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9AU. Tel 0844 995 9664, rhs.org.uk

### 18-22 RHS Tatton Park Flower Show, UK

Plants and show gardens from up-and-coming garden designers. 10am-6.30pm (5pm Sunday). From £27.50. Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 6QN. Tel 0844 995 9664, rhs.org.uk

## AUGUST

### 1-5 RHS Hyde Hall Flower Show, UK

Expert advice and plant sales. 10am-6pm. Admission with garden entry ticket £9.90. RHS Garden Hyde Hall, Creepthedge Lane, Rettendon, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 8RA. Tel 01245 400256, rhs.org.uk

### 17-19 RHS Rosemoor Flower Show, UK

Regional nurseries offering rare plants and planting inspiration. 10am-6pm. Admission with garden entry ticket, £9.90. RHS Garden Rosemoor, Great Torrington, Devon EX38 8PH. Tel 01805 624067, rhs.org.uk

## SEPTEMBER

### 4-9 RHS Wisley Flower Show, UK

Plant displays and the National Dahlia Society Annual Show. 9am-6pm (5pm Sunday). Admission with garden entry ticket, £14. RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB. Tel 01483 224234, rhs.org.uk

### 6-23 Bergamo, Italy

A debate on the future of landscape design, this year curated by Piet Oudolf. Held at different locations throughout the city. Tel +39 035 401 175, imaestridelpaesaggio.it

### 29-30 Malvern Autumn Show, UK

Autumn planting and seasonal vegetables. 9am-6pm. £18. Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire WR13 6NW. Tel 08449 959664, rhs.org.uk

## OCTOBER

### 5-7 Orticolario, Italy

Garden festival on the shores of Lake Como. Villa Erba Gardens, Largo Luchino Visconti 4, 22012 Cernobbio. Tel +39 031 3347503, orticolario.it

### 6-7 Great Dixter Autumn Fair, UK

International nurseries and seasonal plants. 11am-4pm. Admission with garden entry ticket £10.45. Great Dixter, Northiam, Rye, East Sussex TN31 6PH. Tel 01797 524048, greatdixter.co.uk

This is just a small selection of garden events planned for 2018. Look out in local press for details of regional events. You can also find a full list of all RHS shows at rhs.org.uk. Please check all details before travelling.





The garden blends beautifully with the *dehesa*, an oak-filled pasture land common to this part of western Spain, and mixes drought-tolerant shrubs and perennials with architectural desert plants, such as the large prickly pear, *Opuntia ficus-indica*, and *Agave americana*.



# NATURAL HABITAT

*In western Spain, a mix of drought-tolerant plants create a garden that works with the dehesa landscape*

WORDS NOEL KINGSBURY PHOTOGRAPHS CLAIRE TAKACS



## In brief

**Name** La Oliva.

**What** Private garden that combines native plants with drought-tolerant cacti, succulents and agave.

**Where** Extremadura, Spain.

**Size** 1,000 square metres.

**Climate** Continental Mediterranean with low rainfall. Temperatures as high as 40°C common in summer; overnight frosts in winter.

**Soil** Extremely fertile clay loam, improved with manure and sand.

**Hardiness zone** USDA 9b.





THE SPIKY AGAVES BALANCE THE  
ROUNDED PLANTING, WHICH ECHOES  
THE LANDSCAPE BEYOND

**Above**  
Situated on the edge  
of the Monfragüe National  
Park, the garden offers  
stunning views across tree-  
covered pasture land towards  
the park's distant hills.

**E**xtremadura in western Spain is a region of dramatic landscapes with a harsh climate: hot and dry in summer, but cold in winter. In spring, however, it comes alive with the lush, fresh foliage of cistus and lavender bushes and a rich array of wildflowers found growing along roadsides. Garden style in this part of the world is inevitably dictated by the surroundings: a traditional garden with clipped evergreens would seem out of place; a truly naturalistic garden might be attractive in spring, but come summer it would look too dry and severe.

In one of the region's private gardens, the Spanish-based husband and wife design partnership of Miguel Urquijo and Renate Kastner are trying something more subtle with a garden that combines native plants with eye-catching cacti, succulents and agaves. Conscious that gardens in characterful landscapes need to define their individuality without competing with the landscape, Miguel and Renate have used linking elements, such as olive trees, which are native to the surrounding landscape and also create a link to the holm oaks (*Quercus ilex*) that are such a feature on the *dehesa*, as the surrounding landscape is known. The client wanted a garden that needed very little in the way of





maintenance or water, so plants have all been chosen for their drought-tolerance. Several native species have been used alongside strong, architectural plants, such as prickly pear cacti (*Opuntia ficus-indica*) and *Agave americana*, which while Mexican in origin, are now familiar cultivated plants in southern Europe.

The agaves, although few in number, are so visually striking that they dominate the planting, creating spiky, blue-green punctuation points throughout the garden. Their angular shapes are balanced by the remainder of the planting, which is largely made up of hummocky mounds that echo the landscape beyond. Rounded, low shrubs such as these are common in dry, continental climates – they are relatively windproof and their small leaves and compact twiggy growth help to reduce desiccation, which because of the area's strong winds, can be a problem in winter as well as summer. Frequent clipping can also help, and Miguel recommends clipping of some of these shrubby species at least twice a year, more frequently for young plants “to discipline them”. This also helps ensure an overall sculptural appearance, and in some cases can prolong their life, useful as many of these Mediterranean-zone small shrubs are inherently short-lived. ►

#### Above

A holm oak provides welcome shade in the Spanish heat for a dining terrace close to the house. In the foreground is the highly scented, native shrub *Pistachia lentiscus*.





#### Above

The house, a converted agricultural warehouse, is linked to the garden by a shady terrace where rough stone tiles echo the gravel used in the garden and wooden supports reflect the holm oaks beyond.

▷ “*Teucrium fruticans* needs to be kept tight, as plants seem more resistant to heat and cold if they are dense,” says Miguel. Others, such as the tough native shrub *Pistacia lentiscus*, which Miguel likes for the wide variation in its foliage and the red-brown of its new leaves, are better given a more natural look. “Although it can be pruned,” he says, “it also makes a good spreading shape if left alone.”

These neatly clipped, rounded shapes are contrasted effectively with the feathery grass *Stipa tenuissima*, another plant commonly found in dry climates, that is used throughout the garden. Here Miguel and Renate have set it in a red-coloured gravel derived from the local stone that emphasises its form and colours. Foliage colour and texture takes on a much greater importance in this climate where flowers are far less common. Although the grass is short-lived, it self-seeds, as does the familiar red valerian *Centranthus ruber* and white *C. ruber* ‘Albus’, which move around the garden.

Miguel has been heavily influenced by the French designer Gilles Clément and his concept of a garden in movement where plants are not tied to fixed locations. There’s also an English influence from Beth Chatto on Miguel and Renate’s plant choices. ▷



FOLIAGE COLOUR AND TEXTURE TAKES ON  
A GREATER IMPORTANCE IN THIS CLIMATE  
WHERE FLOWERS ARE LESS COMMON



*MIGUEL'S TIPS FOR PLANTING IN A DRY CLIMATE*

- **The smaller the plant that goes in the better**, larger plants have root systems that are too shallow and cannot adapt. Larger plants will always be dependent on irrigation.
- **Do everything you can to encourage deep rooting**, such as breaking up the hardpan when digging a planting hole and cultivating deeply.
- **Organic material, such as manure**, helps create soil humus that will hold on to water and release it to plants when they need it. Too much manure, however, especially if not distributed well, can create damp pockets that can kill the roots of more sensitive plants.
- **Use beneficial micro-organisms**, often available as a root dip, to help encourage effective rooting by helping plants access nutrients and therefore establish more quickly.
- **Watering little and often encourages** shallow rooting. Plants from dry climates grow in spring and go into dormancy during summer so don't grow or need much summer watering.
- **Gravel is useful for reducing moisture loss** from the soil surface. It can also be used to hide and hold down irrigation pipes.

**Above**

Much of the planting is made up of drought-tolerant shrubs, such as *Teucrium fruticans*, with flower colour from *Phlomis fruticosa* and *Centranthus ruber* 'Albus' and architectural cacti and agave.





*STIPA TENUISSIMA*, A PLANT COMMONLY  
FOUND IN DRY CLIMATES, IS USED  
THROUGHOUT THE GARDEN

#### Above

The garden builds on layers of texture and colour, using the grass *Stipa tenuissima* as a soft contrast to blue-grey *Stachys byzantina*. A local stone gravel reduces moisture loss and ties the garden to its surroundings.

▷ “Beth’s idea of the gravel garden, is very practical in a dry climate, such as this,” says Miguel. Unfortunately, not every plant the couple tried in this garden worked, with *Dianthus* and, surprisingly, *Lavandula angustifolia*, among those that failed to thrive.

Knowing what to plant in a Spanish garden is always complicated by the country’s wide range of climates and developing a new style of Spanish garden will only really come about by bringing into cultivation more native species. This garden is still evolving with room for plants to change. “The client was very involved in discussing the design and the planting,” says Miguel. “He knows the garden is something that will never be fully finished, so there is an ongoing relationship between us.” Hopefully, this subtle and relaxed garden might also be part of an ongoing trend for Spanish garden design. □

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#### USEFUL INFORMATION

Find out more about Miguel and Renate’s work at [urquijokastner.com](http://urquijokastner.com)





## SIX OF MIGUEL AND RENATE'S RECOMMENDED PLANTS FOR DRY CLIMATES

### 1 *Stipa tenuissima*

Short-lived grass, but usually self-sowing, especially on lighter soils. Its fine, feathery appearance makes it useful for a meadow-style effect. 60cm. RHS H4, USDA 7a-10b<sup>†</sup>.

### 2 *Elaeagnus x submacrophylla*

A shrub with strongly fragrant flowers in

autumn. In milder climates it is evergreen, and drought tolerant once established. Some shade tolerance. Best on light soils. 3m. AGM\*. RHS H5, USDA 7a-9b.

### 3 *Pistacia lentiscus*

Potentially it will form a spreading tree, but can easily be kept clipped smaller. Its richly aromatic foliage and is

noted for minimal leaf drop. 8m. RHS H3, USDA 9a-11.

### 4 *Euphorbia rigida*

A spectacular spurge with evergreen foliage and a long season of colourful bracts around flowers and seedheads. Sprawling habit. Good for dry and poor soils in sun. 1.2m. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 7a-10b.

### 5 *Phillyrea angustifolia*

Dark leaves densely clothe a neat slow-growing small tree, ideal for tight clipping or stylish hedges. Drought and salt tolerant. 2.5m. RHS H5, USDA 7a-10a.

### 6 *Stachys byzantina*

Known as lamb's ear for its furry, silver-grey foliage. It makes an excellent,

drought-tolerant groundcover, although it is surprisingly tolerant of damp conditions. Prefers full sun, and spreads continually. 40cm. RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.

\*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.

<sup>†</sup>Hardiness ratings given where available.



*Crataegus monogyna*,  
better known as  
hawthorn, is one of the  
most common trees in  
hedgerows countrywide.

# KNOW YOUR TREES

## Part 3 Berrying and hedgerow trees

In the third of a four-part series, Lia Leendertz helps us  
discover the blossoms, fruits and nuts in our hedgerows

WORDS LIA LEENDERTZ PHOTOGRAPHS JASON INGRAM





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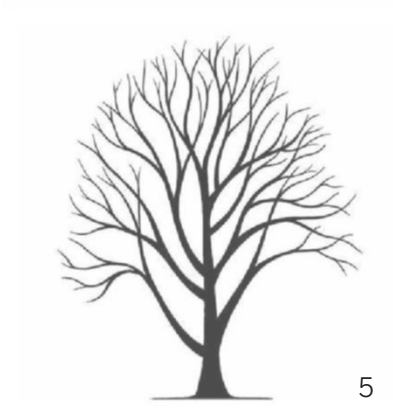
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The rowan is equally at home in suburban front gardens as in rocky mountain crevices.

## *Sorbus aucuparia* rowan

The rowan tree lives a double life. Due to its extreme hardiness and its tolerance of tough conditions, rowan is found higher up mountainsides than any other tree except the silver birch, and is often called the mountain ash because of this. But it is also one of the most domesticated of trees, often planted well away from its wilder habitat. It frequents gardens in towns and in the countryside, where it never gets too big for its bounds and its neat habit, pretty spring blossom and autumn display of lipstick-red berries can be appreciated up close. This association of homes and rowans is not purely ornamental, however, and harks back to a belief that the rowan has protective qualities. It has long been widely planted near doorways as protection against witches and other bad spirits.

### 1 Bark

The bark is smooth, shiny and grey. Winter twigs are grey and young trees have hairy buds.

### 2 Leaves

The leaves comprise between six and eight pairs of leaflets, and bear a similarity to ash leaves. Each individual leaflet has a serrated edge.

### 3 Flowers

Creamy-white heads of five-petalled flowers appear in April and May. They have an unpleasant smell, but are attractive to insects.

### 4 Berries

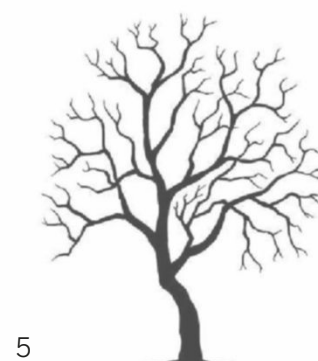
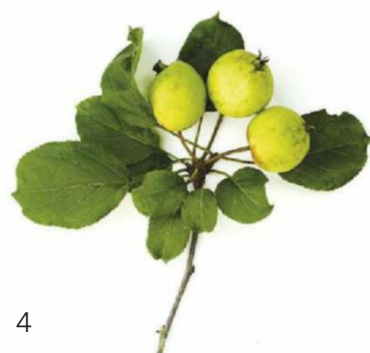
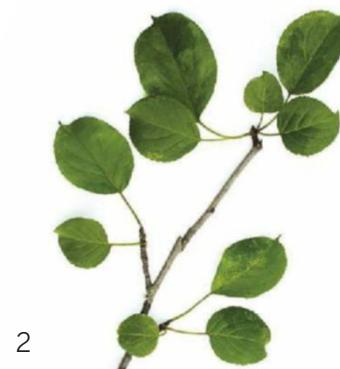
Heavy bunches of beautiful, bright-red, shiny berries are produced in September and

October. Each individual berry bears a tiny star. Birds, especially waxwings, love to feast on the berries.

### 5 Silhouette

A graceful and open-canopied tree, neat, round-headed and open in stature. It grows to a maximum of around 15m and can live for as long as 200 years.





## *Malus sylvestris* crab apple

One of the prettiest small trees there is, crab apple is more often seen in gardens than it is in the wild. Its compact size and two distinct seasons of interest make it suitable for small gardens: in spring it is covered in big white and pink blossom, and in autumn it bears beautiful miniature apples that can hang on the tree for months. However, it can still be found in relics of old oak woodlands and in sheltered spots on the edges of forests, as well as in hedgerows. It is an ancestor of the cultivated apple and can live for up to 100 years, becoming ever more gnarled and twisted as it ages. Lichens cover the branches of older trees and the crab apple is one of the few plants that plays host to mistletoe, so you may see evergreen bunches of this Christmas favourite in the branches once the leaves have fallen.

### 1 Bark

The rough, flecked, grey-brown bark cracks as it ages, the trunk grows gnarled and twisted, and the twigs can develop spines.

### 2 Leaves

Mid-green leaves are round to oval, with serrated edges and a pointed tip that leans to one side. They are borne alternately along the branch.

### 3 Flowers

The beautiful, simple, open blossom appears around April. The pink buds open to pure-white, five-petalled flowers with pink backs to the petals. It has a sweet scent that is attractive to insects.

### 4 Crab apples

Round, green, cherry-sized apples are produced in September and

slowly ripen to yellow by around October. They are a good source of winter food for birds.

### 5 Silhouette

The crab apple grows to around 10m in height and has a wide, rounded, spreading canopy that is often open and irregular. It grows craggy, twisted and characteristic with age.





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More shrub than tree, the wayfarer's common name derives from its historic roadside habitat.

## *Viburnum lantana* wayfaring tree

The wayfaring tree – more often shrub-like – is so pretty that it is widely sold in garden centres and is often planted and cultivated, particularly in shrub and woodland gardens. Its appeal straddles two seasons: spring, when it is covered in umbels of creamy-white flowers, and autumn, when its berries turn from red to black. As well as being a feature of gardens, it is a native that can be found growing on chalky soils in scrub and in hedgerows, and on woodland edges. It is often found along footpaths and roadsides; the 16th-century herbalist John Gerard gave it the name wayfarer on account of its proliferation along the lanes of southern England. The tubular flowers attract hoverflies, which are able to reach the nectar at the base. Birds and small mammals eat the berries in autumn.

### 1 Bark

The young stems are slightly hairy with white tips. Look for yellow-green buds in winter, facing each other on the stem and close to it.

### 2 Leaves

Leaves are greyish-green with pale, downy undersides. They are oval, pointed and slightly crinkled, with round-toothed edges.

### 3 Flowers

Flat umbels of funnel-shaped flowers appear at the ends of the stems in May. The buds are green, but turn creamy as they open into five-petalled flowers.

### 4 Berries

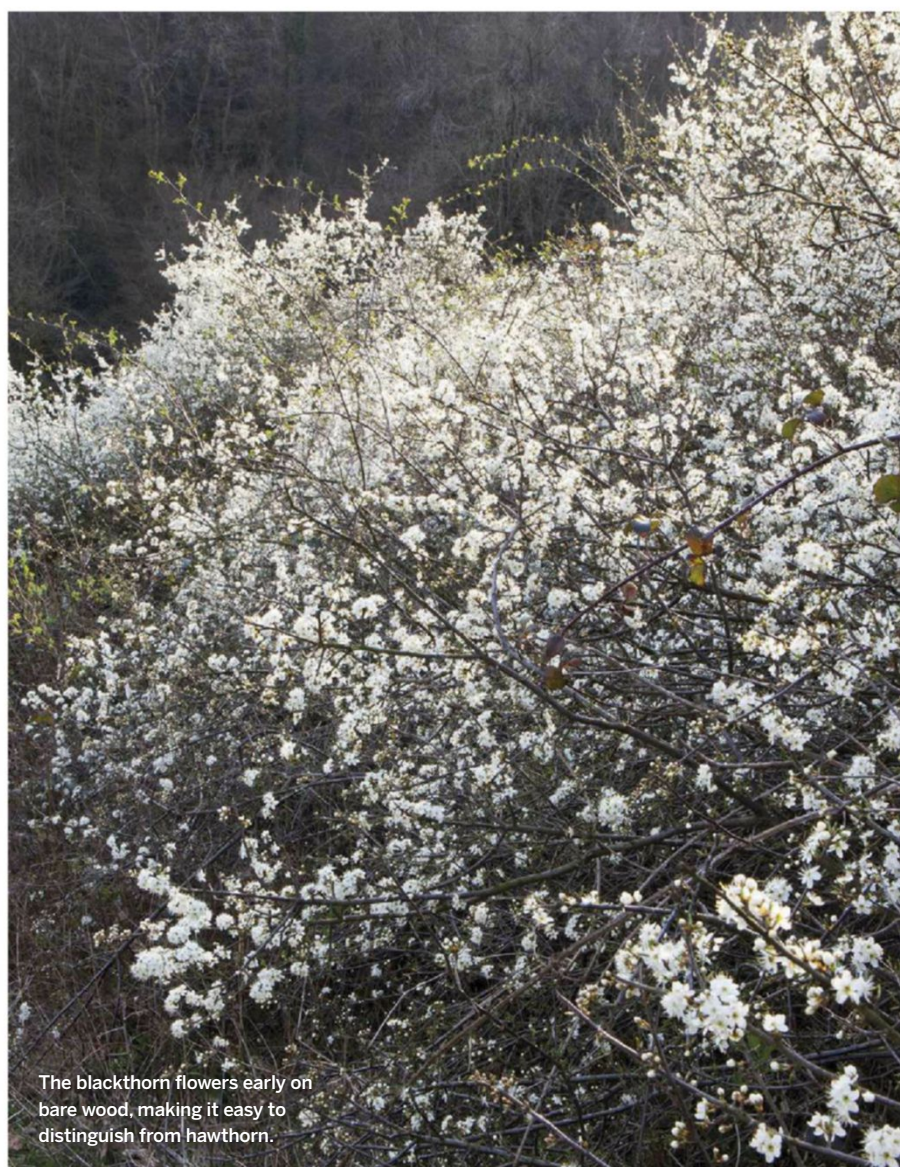
In autumn, the tree carries little bunches of oval, flattened berries that turn red and then black,

although often both colours appear on the tree at the same time. They are poisonous to humans, but harmless to birds.

### 5 Silhouette

The wayfaring tree most often grows as a large shrub, reaching up to 5m in height and often as broad as it is tall. It rarely grows as a single-stemmed tree.





## *Prunus spinosa* blackthorn

Blackthorn is well known to foragers and raises a smile at Christmas among those who like to sip on sloe gin made by steeping berries in sugar and alcohol; learn how to identify the plant early in the year so you can gather the berries in autumn. It is found most often in hedgerows, the remnants of old stock hedging, its spiny nature making it impenetrable, but you can also spot it in scrubs, copses and woodland. Its flowers appear particularly early in the year – you can tell it apart from hawthorn by the flowers' timing and their appearance on bare wood. This makes it a particularly useful plant for wildlife, feeding early flying insects in spring, providing a caterpillar feast through summer, and then, of course, those berries for the birds in autumn and winter – as long as the foragers don't get there first.

### 1 Bark

The bark and twigs are grey-brown becoming almost black with age. Side shoots grow straight from the branch and develop into thorns.

### 2 Leaves

The leaves are small and oval, with a pointed tip and hairs on the veins on the undersides. They grow alternately up the stem.

### 3 Flowers

The flowers appear before the leaves early in the year, around February or March. They are white with five petals and yellow stamens, and cluster thickly around the bare branches.

### 4 Berries

Berries, known as sloes, are an unmistakable, deep blue-black,

colour, perfectly round and ready to pick from October onwards but at their sweetest after a frost (or a spell in the freezer).

### 5 Silhouette

Spiny, dense and crooked growth makes blackthorn a good stock-proof hedge. Plants can grow up to 7m but are usually around 3m, resembling a shrubby thicket.





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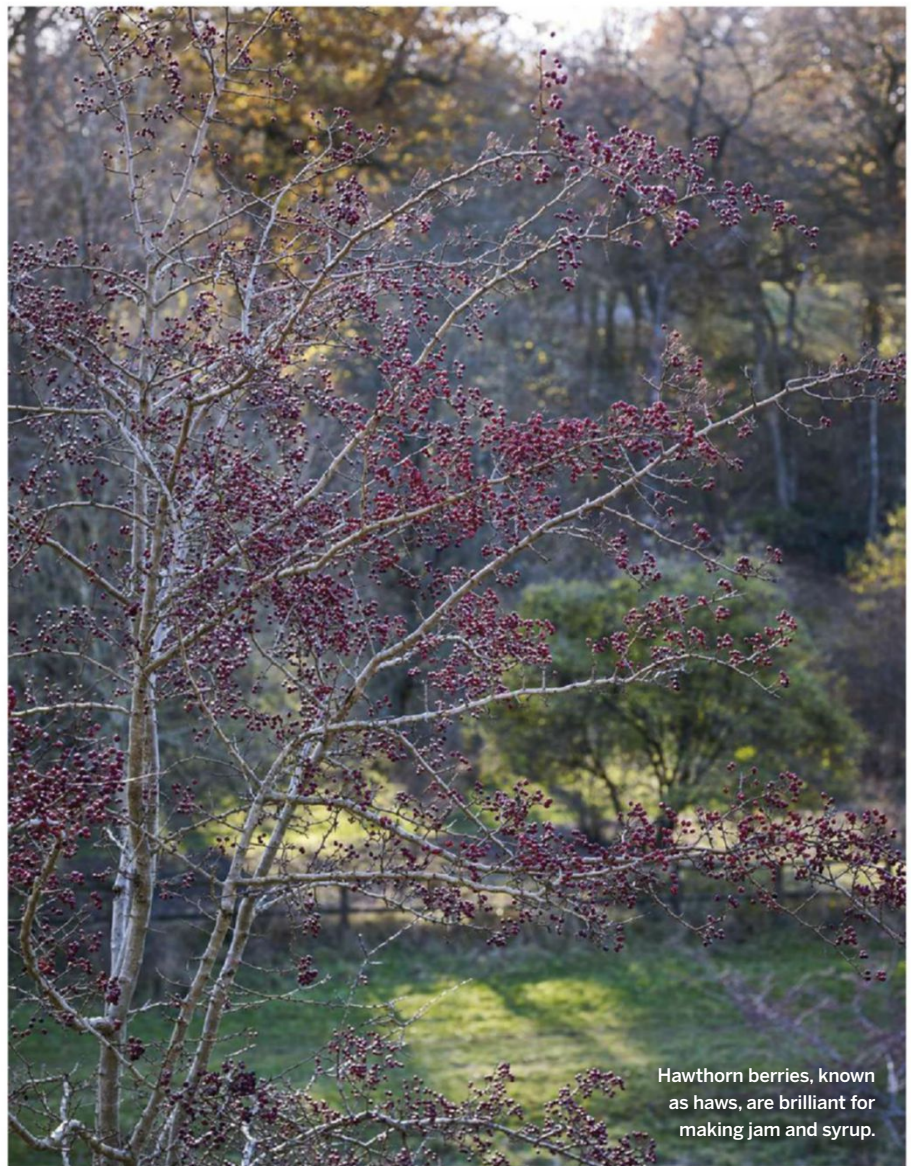
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Hawthorn berries, known as haws, are brilliant for making jam and syrup.

## *Crataegus monogyna* hawthorn

Hawthorn is one of the most common plants in the English countryside, and is most often seen as a hedge around permanent pasture. This is because it has been the principal plant of field enclosure since Tudor times, its dense, spiny growth making a perfect stock-proof hedge. It has several common names – hawthorn, quickthorn, whitethorn and May – the latter after the month in which it produces frothy white flowers, one of the spectacles of the natural year. It is also seen as a gnarled and characterful small tree, particularly in more remote areas. Leaves and flowers are sometimes added to salads, and the berries are used in jam making and to create syrup rich in vitamin C. There are many superstitions around hawthorn, and bringing branches into the house is associated with illness and death.

### 1 Bark

Very young stems have a reddish colour turning red-brown, with thorns protruding below the leaf joints and sometimes at the tips of the shoots. Older bark is brown, fissured and cracked.

### 2 Leaves

The small, bright-green leaves are as broad as they are long and

deeply lobed, cut at least halfway to the central leaf rib. They turn buttery yellow in autumn.

### 3 Flowers

Small, white, five-petaled flowers appear after the leaves in May (an easy way to distinguish hawthorn from blackthorn). They have a strong and not particularly pleasant scent.

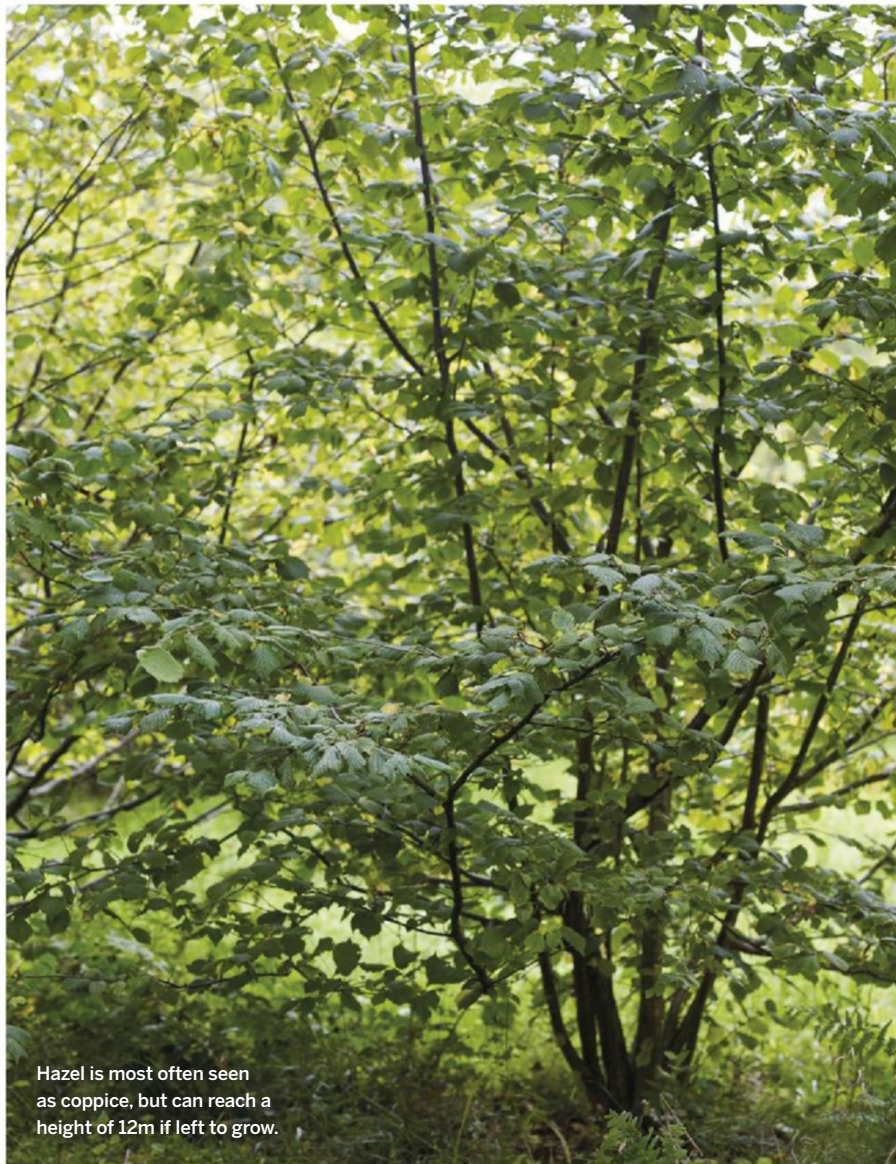
### 4 Berries

Around October, the dark-red haws mature in clusters. They are loved by birds, particularly in the later part of winter.

### 5 Silhouette

Most often grown as a thick hedge, but in remote spots it can be seen as a gnarled and twisted small tree with a spreading, uneven canopy.





### *Corylus avellana* hazel

One of the most useful woods, hazel is everywhere. Its stems split and twist easily and so have been long used for making wattle-and-daub walls as well as fencing and hurdles. They regenerate brilliantly from the base each time they are cut back, and are most often seen as coppiced trees, sometimes making up the understory of oak, birch or ash woodland, sometimes in stands of their own. It also appears in hedgerows and lowland scrub. You may see non-coppiced trees, but they generally don't live very long, only reaching around 70 years of age as opposed to the 500-plus years of managed hazel. Coppicing lets in light, so hazel coppices make beautiful woodlands rich in flora. You will often find that the woodland floor of a hazel coppice comprises bluebells, anemones, dog violets and sorrel.

#### 1 Bark

Older stems are light brown and smooth with yellow pores. Younger stems are sometimes bronze in colour with a peeling outer layer, and the young twigs have a downy texture.

#### 2 Catkins

Catkins appear in autumn and winter and often open as early

as January. Catkins are the male flowers and are long and yellow, while the female flowers are tiny and red.

#### 3 Leaves

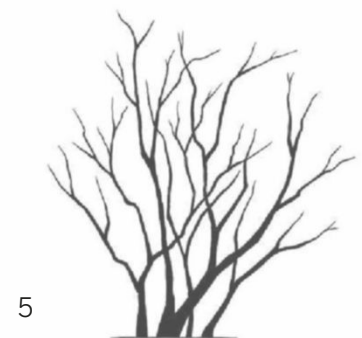
The textured leaves are broad and rounded with a point at the tip. Leaf edges are unevenly toothed, and the stalk and underside are covered in fine, downy hairs.

#### 4 Nuts

Nuts form and mature in September and October, turning from soft and green to hard, shiny and brown. They are held on to the plant by a papery husk.

#### 5 Silhouette

Most often coppiced, with multiple stems rising from ground level, making a wide, low thicket.





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# DESIGN

*News, trends and sourcebook*



## Holocaust memorial

London-based architects Adjaye Associates and Ron Arad Architects, and landscape architects Gustafson Porter + Bowman have been selected to design a new Holocaust memorial for Victoria Tower Gardens, the smallest of London's Royal Parks, next to the Houses of Parliament. The trio beat 92 other entries in an international competition, and the jury praised their proposal to create "a living place, not just a monument to something of the past". The memorial will be made up of 23 tall bronze fins embedded into the ground, with the spaces between representing the 22 European countries in which Jewish communities were devastated during the Holocaust.





## NEWS

COMPILED BY ANNIE GATTI



### ① EUROPEAN GARDEN AWARD

London's Crossrail Place Roof Garden, which was landscaped by Gillespies, has won first prize for best Innovative Concept or Design of a Contemporary Park or Garden in the European Garden Award 2017. Located at the top of the seven-storey building above the new Canary Wharf Station, the garden is planted with many species native to countries visited by ships of the West India Dock Company, which unloaded their goods at the wharf. The dense planting is grouped according to hemisphere of origin. Open daily, it also provides a 60-seat performance space. [group.canarywharf.com](http://group.canarywharf.com)

### ② JARDINS FANTÔMES, LE HAVRE

To celebrate the 500th anniversary of the founding of the northern French port of Le Havre by Francis I, the French artist Baptiste Debombourg has created a monumental work of art entitled *Jardins Fantômes*. The Corten steel structure, which is fixed to the harbour's walls at Bassin du Roy, is laser cut into distinctive patterns inspired by the motifs in the king's chamber at his castle, Château de Blois. Over time it will gradually become embellished with mussels, oysters and seaweed to make a more organic form. [uneteauhavre2017.fr](http://uneteauhavre2017.fr)

### ③ ROOFTOP SPA GARDEN

Designer Matthew Wilson has created a rooftop garden for the spa at Rudding Park Hotel in Harrogate. Inspired by the surrounding 'Capability' Brown-designed parkland, the garden features multi-stemmed amelanchiers, underplanted with pared-down *Fagus sylvatica* domes and grasses. Galvanised steel beds have been filled with *Gaura lindheimeri* and *Agapanthus*, while yew hedging has been used to screen a hot-tub, and multi-stemmed *Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii* surround a sunken pilates space. [ruddingpark.co.uk](http://ruddingpark.co.uk)

### ④ TYNE CONTAINER GARDEN

Planning permission has been granted for a vast container garden designed by Diarmuid Gavin for the Gateshead Quays Development. The stacked containers will be installed at Hillgate Quay on the banks of the Tyne and form the shell of a walled garden, clad with herbs, vegetables and groundcover plants. Inside the walls wooden crates will be planted with wheat, corn and hops, to echo the idea of a productive walled garden, while 6m-high, shaped *Carpinus* trees create the canopy of the layered planting, which is punctuated by groves of multi-stemmed birch set in drifts of flowering perennials.





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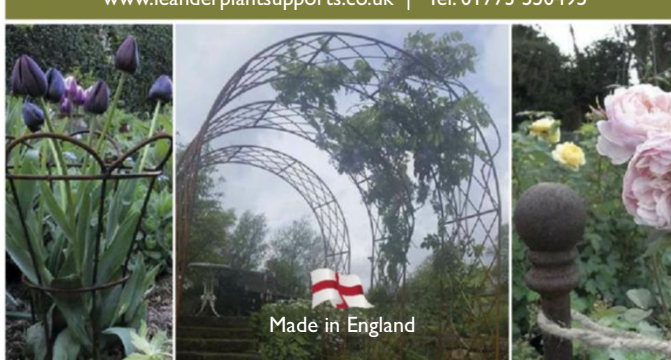


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Garden of Medicinal Plants – Chelsea Physic Garden Photo: R. Alexander

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# DESIGN TRENDS 2018

From technology to ethical responsibility, shrubs to abstract topiary, ten experts highlight the trends in design

## Anoushka Feiler

Garden designer



There's an increasing demand to create havens 'away from it all'; gardens that are relaxing, entertaining, sustainable, wildlife magnets with year-round planting and beds to grow-your-own. With space at a premium, garden areas need to be clever and flexible, without forgoing beauty to significantly enhance their intrinsic value. Technology is king too with 21st-century garden needs, such as WiFi, speakers and artistic lighting.

## Andrew Fisher Tomlin

LCGD\*



Young designers are approaching planting design in ways that are relevant to their lifestyles. There is huge interest in rain gardens, micro-greens and vegetables, and interior planting that allows them to design and garden for the way they live today.

## Annie Guilfoyle

Garden Masterclass



We are now seeing some really good public landscaping with an emphasis on using plants in a more exciting and sustainable way. For example, Elephant Park in southeast London, where the designers have used different perennial mixes, each developed for a specific habitat.

## Rosemary Alexander

English Gardening School



In the search for shrubs that can be used to punctuate borders and offer year-round structure and interesting foliage, conifers such as *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Nana Gracilis' are gaining favour. There's also a revived interest in the differences in shape, form and colour of ferns, loved by the Victorians and so easily grown in light shade.

\* LCGD IS THE LONDON COLLEGE OF GARDEN DESIGN

Clients are becoming more tuned in to design. They are choosing designers who want to celebrate artistic intervention and individual expression.

Ian Kitson  
Garden designer



Reflecting the sense of place by using vernacular materials and suitable planting has always been important to our design studio. We are now increasingly finding clients themselves place far more emphasis on the importance of using materials and planting with a greater degree of environmental and ethical responsibility.



**Hugo Bugg**

Garden designer

2018 is all about making dynamic decisions. Whether to prune or leave it looking wild, the gardens of 2018 will be all about contrast: relaxed and loose planting juxtaposed with structural hedging and abstract topiary; mono colour pallets with backgrounds of textured greens. The garden will re-emerge as a relaxing space rather than an intensity of manicured perfection.



**Andrew Duff**

Inchbald School of Design

Today's plant schemes are definitely different from those of earlier days. Climate change, sustainability and respect for environment are now major guidelines for those among us who have specialised in plantings. We have also learned to appreciate the beauty of decay and, as a result, our present planting plans have far more textural interest.



**Jacqueline van der Kloet**

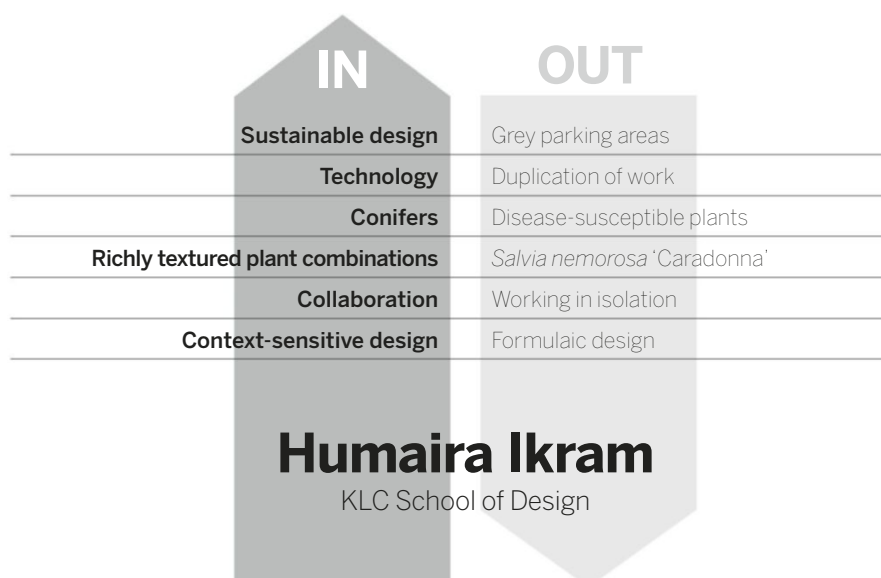
Planting designer

A wider understanding of the 'naturalised style' of garden design and border planting combined with more informed plant selections continues to make this style evolve and stay popular. There's a new emphasis on the narrative of the scheme over a simplistic, native-first rationale.



**Paul Harvey-Brookes**

Garden designer







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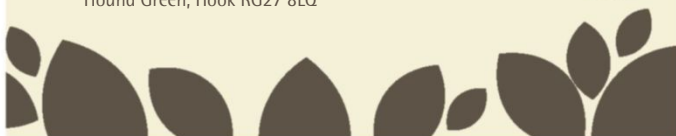
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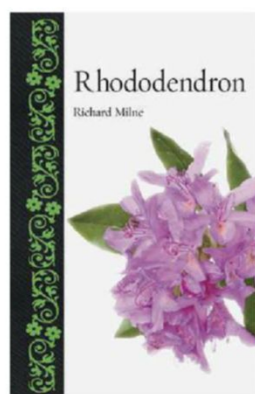
*Book reviews, crossword, back issues, reader offer*



Discover the joys of growing fruit trees, such as this *Prunus cerasifera*, in Francine Raymond's new book, *The Garden Farmer*, reviewed on page 102.



# BOOK REVIEWS



## **RHODODENDRON**

by Richard Milne  
Reaktion Books, £16

ISBN 978-1780238159

An enlightening and accessible account of a sometimes maligned genus, covering its evolution, cultural significance and social impact.

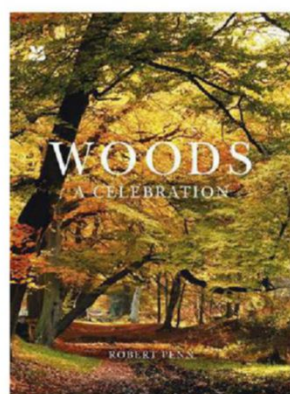
*Reviewer John Hoyland is a plantsman and garden writer*

Few plants have seen such extremes in its fortunes as has the rhododendron, from the heights of its popularity in the late 19th century, when a frenzy of hybridisation brought exuberant blooms to an eager public, to today, when the invasive nature of one species has tarnished the whole genus. But even the most ardent ‘rhodo basher’ could not fail to be beguiled by Milne’s enthusiasm for the plant.

The book explores the cultural and social influences of the genus and explains how its exceptional fertility has led to hybrids in the wild and in gardens. It is filled with engaging anecdotes about the exploits of early plant collectors and the motley group of plant breeders who fed the public appetite for rhododendrons. One chapter is dedicated to the *bête noire Rhododendron ponticum* and chronicles how the plant came to infest huge swathes of our countryside.

Deforestation, climate change and competition for land are major threats to rhododendrons, and the book suggests that several may already be extinct and many more vulnerable. Milne explains the importance of conserving the genetic diversity of both species and hybrids in collections and botanic gardens, and of working with countries, particularly China, to preserve the wild habitats where rhododendrons grow. In Britain, changing weather patterns and regulations limiting wild seed collection has caused one nursery – a grower and collector for several generations – to scale back its rhododendron production.

Milne, a botanist and academic, has the skill to communicate his knowledge clearly. He writes with a light touch and with a passion that makes the book accessible to gardeners who do not share his botanical background.



## **WOODS: A CELEBRATION**

by Robert Penn  
National Trust Books, £20

ISBN 978-1911358114

This book is packed with valuable information about the natural history of woods and will be of interest to any reader with a passion for trees.

*Reviewer Tony Kirkham is head of the arboretum at Kew Gardens*

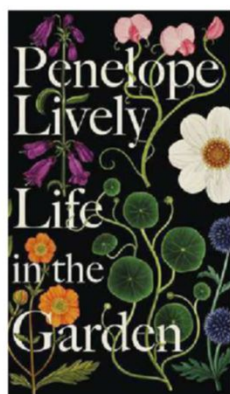
I find it hard to believe that it’s more than 30 years since the Great Storm of 1987 ravaged the countryside with hurricane-force winds, decimating much of the woodland of southeast England, but how time flies and how well nature mends itself if left to its own devices. This beautifully illustrated book from the National Trust, the second largest woodland owner in the UK, is a fitting celebration of our treescape. The National Trust owns some 420 woods and forests covering around 26,000 hectares in England and Wales, and many of these iconic spaces, home to both native and introduced tree species, are described here.

Broken down into four chapters, the book covers the four seasons we are so familiar with, and a quick flick through the pages takes us through a typical year in the life of a British woodland. The large, lavish colour photographs with

their lengthy, informative captions capture the seasonal atmosphere well and whet the reader’s appetite, inviting us to delve further into the intriguing natural history that we witness month by month in a temperate treescape. The book explores the biodiversity in our woodland, highlighting the animals, birds, invertebrates, fungi and wildflowers that rely on our wooded landscape for habitat and food as they become relevant to the seasons; bluebells in spring, butterflies in summer, fungi in autumn and feasting birds in winter.

Robert Penn writes with authority on the traditions associated with woodland management skills and the latest position on the effects of exotic invasive species on our trees. This is not a coffee-table book, but an informative guide to our woodlands today and all that they stand for.





### **LIFE IN THE GARDEN**

by Penelope Lively  
Fig Tree, £14.99

ISBN 978-0241319628

A beautifully written book that weaves memories of the author's own gardens with a wider appreciation of garden style and fashion.

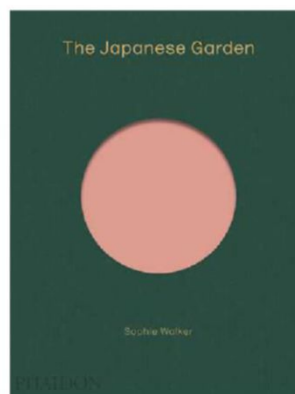
*Reviewer Anna Pavord is a garden writer*

I remember Penelope Lively's gardening column in the early days of *The Independent*. It was a witty account of her love affair with a new greenhouse: the rapture of early spring bulbs flowering in this octagonal cedar paradise while the garden outside was still frostbittenly barren; the excitement of growing for the first time a crop of annual flowers from seed. The latter experiment was so successful she wondered whether she might advertise at the nearest layby: 'Cut flowers; creative writing classes; tuition in political theory' (her husband, Jack, taught politics at Oxford).

Writing has been at the centre of Penelope Lively's life – she won the Booker Prize in 1987 for her novel *Moon Tiger* – but equally important to her are the reading and gardening. All three pursuits come together in this discursive book, which mixes memories of her own much-loved gardens with thoughts on gardens in art and literature.

She writes with wit on horticultural fashions and styles, perceptively on the concepts of time and order in the garden and superlatively well on gardens in books. She notes the 'miasma of pretension' surrounding the tedious Sitwells – Osbert, Edith and Sacheverell – and expresses irritation at the 'extremely tiresome robin' that hops through the pages of *The Secret Garden*. It's always good to be in the company of a writer with strong opinions.

After creating two fairly large country gardens, Penelope Lively now lives in north London, with a smaller patch in her charge, but her eye is as sharp as ever. She mourns the loss of the personal elements that a garden would have 'before we acquired everything from the garden centre'. She notices differences in window boxes. She marvels at the way all gardeners, even in their eighties as she is, assume a future for their garden. This is a wonderful book.



### **THE JAPANESE GARDEN**

by Sophie Walker  
Phaidon, £49.95

ISBN 978-0714874777

A scholarly yet attractive and accessible survey, given a personal twist by the author and graced by essays from noted designers.

*Reviewer Tim Richardson is a garden critic and regular columnist*

Garden designer Sophie Walker has assembled a starry line-up of essayists to bolster what would be a seriously impressive book even without the brief contributions of artist Anish Kapoor, mathematician Marcus du Sautoy and architects John Pawson and Tadao Ando.

The Japanese garden can seem an abstruse and difficult topic, but the author's phenomenological approach, which involves writing in a free, direct and unembarrassed way about actual emotions experienced at the gardens, creates its own gateway for the reader. Early on the author writes of the value of 'intimacy and wholeheartedness' in gardening, and those qualities are evident throughout.

Each chapter deals with the significance of specific features, including gateways, paths, trees, rocks, bridges and water, or the religious and philosophical ideas underpinning these

effects. This interplay between the material and the spiritual is a constant theme, and comes to the fore in sections devoted to tea ceremony and the *wabi sabi* concept, the moon and the sun, and the dry garden.

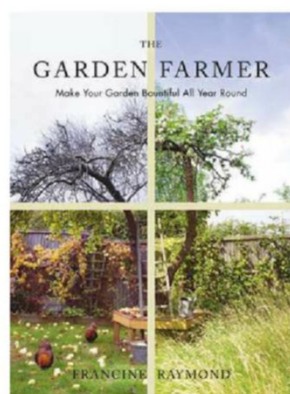
Frequent poetry quotations are welcome and apposite. The most original chapter concerns the use of plants in the Japanese garden, often taken for granted because azaleas, bamboos and the like can seem commonplace.

The book is broken up with photographs and potted descriptions of key gardens, which creates a nice rhythm for the reader. Well-chosen images of key moments, such as the sculpted pine placed between hedges at Katsura Imperial Villa, are printed on greyish paper, which enhances the meditative, inward feel (glossy paper would send a different message).

In all this will make a worthwhile addition to any thinking gardener's library.



# BOOK REVIEWS



## THE GARDEN FARMER

By Francine Raymond  
Square Peg, £20

ISBN 978-1910931325

Inspiration for the micro-smallholder, with expert advice on poultry rearing plus tips on vegetable, fruit and flower growing.

*Reviewer Jojo Tulloh is a gardener-cook and award-winning writer*

Any book of advice written with a lifetime's experience will have much to recommend it and this is no exception. After 30 years, Francine Raymond has downsized from her Suffolk smallholding to a smaller town plot by the sea in Whitstable and this book sets out her new approach to productive gardening in a more urban setting (but including livestock). It is written in journal form with monthly recipes, gardening and stock advice. If you lack the space for true self-sufficiency, this scaled-down approach will be of interest.

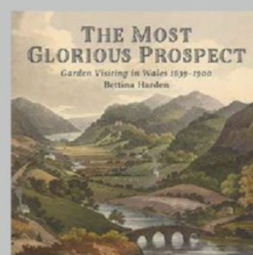
The book's wide-ranging scope is both its strength and its weakness. It's lovely to dip into and be inspired to cook, garden and decorate the home, but readers may long for more detail on the subjects that interest them most. The journal format is good for browsing, but impractical if you're looking

for day-to-day advice on the three main strands of cooking, growing and keeping livestock. Thankfully a good index helps.

Raymond is an experienced poultrywoman. Chicken, geese and duck are described breed by breed and it is here that her knowledge and enthusiasm really shine. She sets out all you need to do to get started, and more importantly succeed, in a domestic setting. This information is invaluable and Raymond makes the combination of poultry and gardening seem both inevitable and highly advantageous. Those wishing to keep pigs will take heart from her no-nonsense approach and be inspired by her love of rare breeds, while the accompanying photos made me long for a pair of Oxford Sandy and Blacks of my own. 'Eat fresh, store the excess, then give away as much as you can' is Raymond's mantra. We would all do well to adopt it. □

## Other books

Five new titles ranging from the joys of visiting Welsh gardens and growing mushrooms to Charles Darwin and floral art



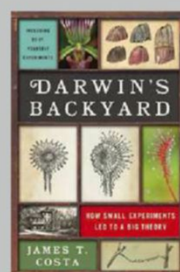
## THE MOST GLORIOUS PROSPECT: GARDEN VISITING IN WALES 1639-1900

by Bettina Harden  
Graffeg, £30  
ISBN 978-1910862629  
An in-depth look at the tradition and history of visiting gardens.



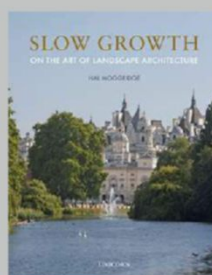
## HOME-GROWN MUSHROOMS FROM SCRATCH

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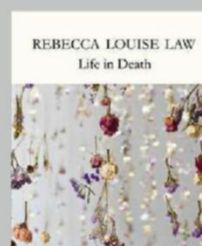
## DARWIN'S BACKYARD

By James T Costa  
WW Norton & Company, £22  
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An exploration of naturalist Charles Darwin's greatest experiments, including details of how to recreate them.



## SLOW GROWTH: ON THE ART OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

by Hal Moggridge  
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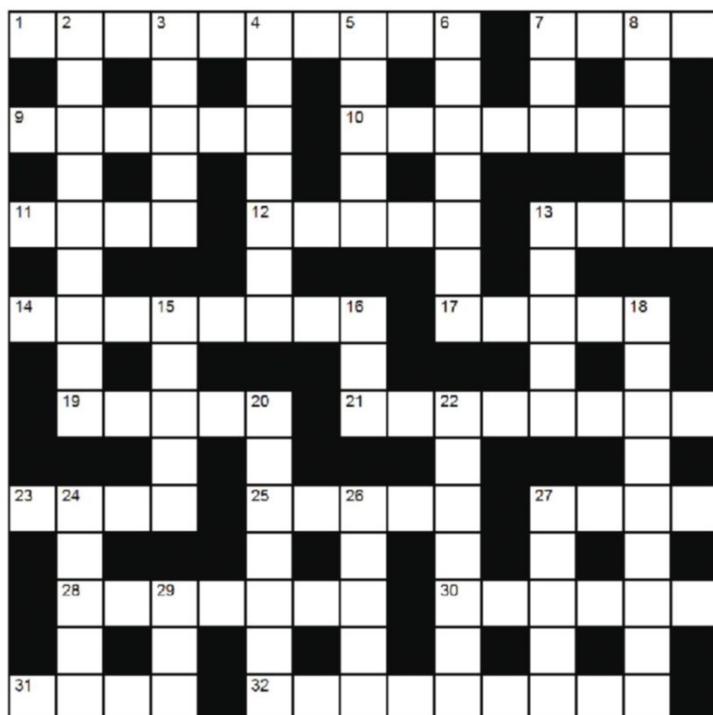


## REBECCA LOUISE LAW: LIFE IN DEATH

by Rebecca Louise Law  
Kew Publishing, £25  
ISBN 978-1842466469  
Collection of work by the British artist, documenting her use of preserved flowers.



# CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

- 1 *Antirrhinum*'s common name (10)  
 7 See 12 across  
 9 Climbs ... a fir cone's individual plates? (6)  
 10 Amphora needs only small change to be this genus of 'false indigo bush' (7)  
 11 A fiery red flower in 'Volcano' series of penstemon (4)  
 12/17 *Philodendron scandens* – its common name reveals its foliage shape (5-4)  
 13/27 Pea pod, say – deceases, sadly (4,4)  
 14 Common name for delphinium (8)  
 17 See 16 down  
 19 Succulents with rosettes of leaves – bitter at first? (5)  
 21 A buddleia with huge flowers named after National Park in SW England (8)  
 23 Partly ostracise the genus of snowflake flowers (formerly *Leucojum*) (4)  
 25 Flowers associated with tea and China? (5)  
 27 See 13 across  
 28 Genus of a purple-leaved herb ... in hamper I'll arrange (7)  
 30 Tall, woody grass: its genera include *Fargesia* and *Phyllostachys* (6)  
 31 First-ever garden project in Cornwall! (4)  
 32 *Alcea rosea*: tall classic cottage garden plant (9)

SOLUTIONS TO THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD WILL BE PRINTED NEXT MONTH

## PLANT SPECIAL SOLUTIONS

ACROSS 8 Rheum 10 Hosta 12 Corolla 14 Petunia 15 Oyster plant 16 Elgar 18 Hidcote 20 Sedum 21 Linum 23 Daisies 25 Tares 26 Miss Piggy 27 Mertensia 29 Snake-bark 31 Cichorium 33 El Cid 35 Elegans 36 Lemon 37 Tease 39 Long Tom 41 Dusty 42 London plane 44 Nigella 46 Griseum 47 Mulch 48 Pulse. DOWN 1 Tropaeolum 2/45 Lent lily 3 Sheath 4 Oaks 5 Achene 6 Crepis 7 Oleander 9 Minor 11 Sword lily 13 Artemisia 17 Genista 19 Opium 22 Mophead 23 Dogbane 24 Spruces 25 Trefoil 28 Stigmas 29 Sweet Flag 30 Klein 31 Chartwell 32 Money maker 34 Chat noir 38 Elodea 39 Lipoma 40 Mentha 41 Dig up 43 Ammi.

## DOWN

- 2 I contain a smashing tobacco plant (9)  
 3 Large orange-red pelargonium, giving you a lively dance? (5)  
 4 What's left of, say, Gertrude Jekyll's bloom in autumn? (7)  
 5 A miscanthus with red/brown flower plumes – some sigh, "A natural"! (5)  
 6 An orchid genus – eat on it, possibly! (7)  
 7 Cut back tree in arboreal operation (3)  
 8 Genus of the 'Century plant' one donated (5)  
 13 Cut grass in awkward place: street edge (5)  
 15 Gnarls in trees – not inside Kew Gardens boundaries (5)  
 16/17 across Scarlet salvia – for an aerobic team member? (3,5)  
 18 Location of Blenheim Palace's ... ruby-petalled hyacinth (9)  
 20 Proprietary moisture-retentive straw – makes good man lurch badly (7)  
 22 Another name for oleander – as one word it's linked with willowherb (4,3)  
 24 A larkspur with short, fat spikes – and symbol of love (5)  
 26 Garden pest horribly slain (5)  
 27 A white pom-pom chrysanthemum's arrived with love (5)  
 29 Dash! It's the extent of a root's growth! (3)

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# READER OFFERS

## Save on this specially selected lily collection

If you're inspired by our plant profile on lilies (see page 50) then now is the time to order your lily bulbs ready for an impressive and fragrant display come summer. Specialist nursery HW Hyde & Son is offering readers this easy-to-grow collection at a great price.

### THE COLLECTION

- **Lilium Pink Perfection Group** Standard pink trumpet lily with highly scented flowers about 15cm across. Very easy to grow but can need some support. Grows to about 1.2m in its first year, when established can grow to 1.8m. Flowers late June to July.

- **L. regale** An easy-to-grow, reliable species lily from China. Height can vary considerably, some bulbs will produce huge stems up to 1.5m tall, while others will only grow to about 1m. Equally one stem may be topped with just a handful of flowers and another will produce over 20. Flowers from June to July.

- **L. longiflorum** Commonly called the Easter lily. Highly scented, large, white flowers appear from July, alongside shiny, dark-green, narrow leaves.

- **L. 'Black Beauty'** Lightly perfumed dark purple flowers about 14cm across. Freshly planted bulbs tend to grow to about 1m tall in the first season. From the second year on, they often grow over 1.6m. Tends to need staking as a stem can produce 40-50 plus flowers. Late flowering often not starting until early August.

- **L. African Queen Group** A trumpet lily with highly scented, orange flowers about 15cm across. Very easy to grow but can need some form of support. Grows to about 1.2m in its first year, when established can grow to 1.8m. Flowers late June to July.

- **L. Golden Splendor Group** Another standard trumpet lily, this time with yellow, highly scented flowers of about 15cm across. Grows to about 1.2m in its first year, when established can grow to well over 1.5m. Flowers July.

- **L. henryi** Parent to many modern hybrids, this lily originates from China. It has small-sized, downward-facing flowers, about 12cm in diameter. Newly planted bulbs tend to take a year or so to really get going. Once established they can have 20-40



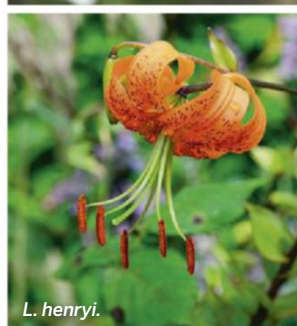
L. Pink Perfection Group.



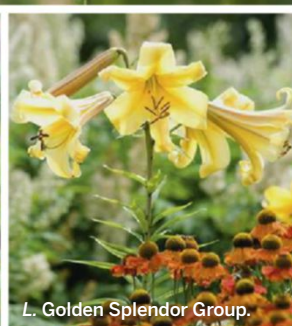
L. regale.



L. longiflorum.



L. henryi.



L. Golden Splendor Group.



L. African Queen Group.

flowers on a stem, which normally needs some form of support. Flowers from July to August onwards.

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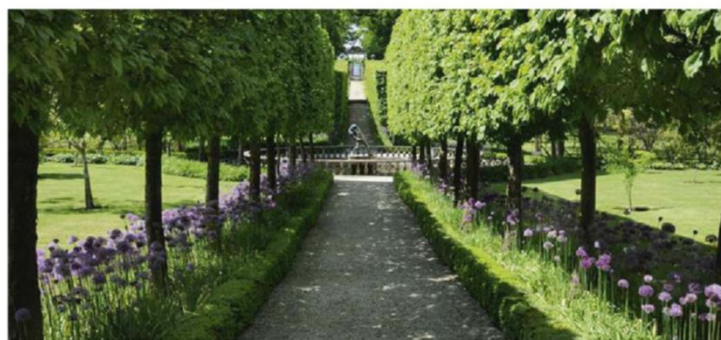
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Hanging Wooden Signs : 70 Texts



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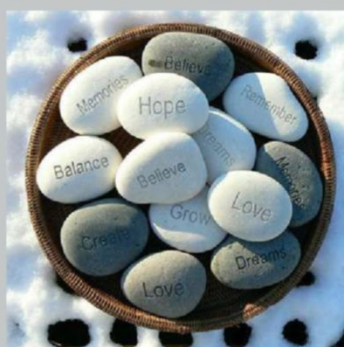


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- How to grow highly fragrant daphnes
- Designer Sarah Price recommends 100 of her favourite garden plants
- Ten of the best February plants to grow in your garden



ROBERT MABIC / GAP PHOTOS, DIANNA JAZWINSKI, JASON INGRAM, MAAYKE DE RIDDER



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*Why waste January wishing it were gone when the month brings both the joy of small delights and the pleasure of feeling virtuous with every task you undertake*

WORDS FRANK RONAN ILLUSTRATION RACHEL VICTORIA HILLIS

There was a time when winter seemed too long. Now I resent that idiocy of youth: of Januaries wasted in waiting for them to be over, when everything you could ever want is here and now, crystallised. Summer, for all its loveliness, will bring days of disappointment. Deepest winter is stripped of false promises, and speckled with joy, if you know to look for it.

There is first the joy of short working days; of having to pull yourself straight, tidy everything away and retire to a hot bath in the middle of the afternoon. Once the clocks go forward again we will be working beyond boneache; too late and too tired to cook a decent supper.

Now the enveloping darkness sets us free at a civilised hour, and there will be something scented to pick and have in a vase by our elbow for the firelit evening.

There is no guilt in January; nothing that actually needs to be done, and we can congratulate ourselves on the smallest accomplishment. An hour of gentle snipping, preferably with the winter sun on the back of the neck, is the purest bliss. At other times of the year I half think of pruning as a self-indulgence and a procrastination when there is more important work to be done. Now the ground is frozen, the weeds are stilled and the grass is lying low. Perhaps not quite, but this is not the time to let a bout of mild weather trouble your conscience.

Think instead of small delights, like putting a slug pellet in the crown of every delphinium. You can do more harm to the enemy now than at any other time, and the delphiniums will soar twice as high for not having spent the winter being bitten to the bone. The same goes for any other delicacy beloved by the mollusc. A single pellet now will save a packet in April. If you are worried about the birds put a cover on it –



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the intended victims will be coming at it from below.

Not that there is anything to prevent you working up a sweat if you feel the need to. Winter digging is a noble and lauded occupation; discarding a layer at the end of each row until you are plunging the fork in your shirt sleeves, forehead glistening and robin egging on from behind. The light will almost certainly give out before your back does and the theory is that the real work will be done overnight by frost on the exposed clods.

If the ground is too hard or there is nothing left to dig, there is always the compost heap to be turned and fussed over and made ready to receive another year's donations. And there is probably some pile of

bricks or lumber that has been slightly in the way and giving sanctuary to nettles for three years now, that can be moved and neatly stacked in a place of yet-to-be-revealed inconvenience.

None of these things really have to be done, which will make you feel all the more virtuous for doing them. More virtuous still if the weather is against you in any way. But then, particularly in January, the weather always looks much worse from the wrong side of the glass. When you step outside you find yourself overdressed and wish you had come out an hour earlier instead of worrying about leaving the warm.

The greatest joy of a January afternoon in the garden is that you have the world to yourself. Sensible people are tucked inside and all their noisy garden machinery has been put away until the spring. The long, damp silence deepens as the light fails and you delay going inside again, even though your fingers are stiffening and reddening, and then you are rewarded by a flash of white followed by twenty minutes of watching the barn owl quartering the common to the distant scream of a crepuscular fox. You would not wish January over then, just yet. □



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